

Government decides not to touch tax relief on mortgages

that people with large incomes can set them unjustly against large mortgages to get income-tax relief. They suggested taking away those reliefs, and cutting the £25,000 limit on mortgages that attract tax relief to something nearer the price of an average house.

It was also urged that homeowners, for all their complaints, had done extremely well out of inflation. While the first-time buyers suffered, those with long-standing mortgages paid out only a small part of their incomes.

The mortgage subsidy, of £1,100 a year or £214 a head, is costing the State a third more in real terms after the past five inflationary years, the left-wingers say.

The Government's difficulty, now it has decided that it dare not interfere with voters' income tax offsets, is how to handle the long-standing political warfare between those who maintain that council houses are overcrowded and those who think they are being unfairly attacked.

Demand for inquiry into council house sales

By Robert Parker

A call for an independent inquiry into the costs of selling council houses was made yesterday by Mrs Gladys Dimson, Labour housing spokesman on the Greater London Council.

Figures published by Shelter at the weekend indicate that the selling of council houses in Leeds is costing both rate-payers and the Exchequer large sums.

Mrs Dimson said that if the Leeds figures were applied to London the recent announcement by the Conservatives to sell 50,000 council houses would cost about £80m over the next 60 years. The same economics would suggest that sales of houses between 1967 and 1970 could have cost £100m.

Since so many local authorities were contemplating the sale of council houses, in the belief that the end of management and maintenance costs would result in overall economies, it was of great importance to establish beyond doubt whether the savings did save money, Mrs Dimson said.

The Shelter figures were pub-

Gunmen murder man in Belfast office

A man aged 37 was shot dead in an office in Belfast yesterday. A colleague was seriously injured by two gunmen believed to be wearing wigs and false mustaches.

The man who died was Mr Malachy Gregory, of Finaghy Road North, and the attack happened at the offices of Laker Construction Company in College Square North. Mr

Inquiry into role of statistician in policy

By a Staff Reporter

Sir Claus Moser, Director of the Central Statistical Office, is to review the role and status of statisticians in Whitehall policy-making.

It will be more an informal, personal look than a formal, official examination of Whitehall's 500 statisticians, whom Sir Claus leads as Head of the Government Statistical Service. Sir Claus, who succeeded Sir Henry Campion as head of the profession in 1967, feels the need to take stock after 10 years in the post.

He has appointed as helpers two assistant secretaries from the Civil Service, one of whom is coordinating body within the Cabinet Office responsible for statisticians in departments throughout the Whitehall machine. Their reports will be completed in less than a year.

The last, thoroughgoing review was conducted by the Parliamentary Estimates Committee in 1966. On taking over the GSS the following year Sir Claus was asked to make a reappraisal of its future development.

High on the agenda of the inquiry will be the question of how much say statisticians should have in the formulation of policy. Sir Claus has long been a purist in such matters.

He is acutely conscious of the fact that figures, being manipulated by governments for their own purposes.

Sir Claus will also consider how best to combine the work of statisticians with economists in the Government Economic Service. In some departments, such as environment and transport, the already work together in mixed divisions. In others, such as health and social security, they operate separately.

Sir Claus, who is 56, is chairman of the board of directors of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He is an engaging and widely respected polymath whose career has spanned Whitehall and the universities.

His name is frequently canvassed for top academic posts. He was seen by some, for example, as a possible director of a "British Brookings", the policy institute, which has failed to take shape for lack of funds. He is also talked of as a likely successor to Sir Norman Macdonald when the latter, as Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford.



Prince says he was misquoted: The Prince of Wales said on *Nationwide*, the BBC television programme, last night that he had been misquoted over a remark that middle-aged people were not contributing enough to his jubilee appeal. He explained: "I was speaking off the cuff. There were a lot of people standing in front of me, so I said: 'What about you in the middle?'" He added that he had received a number of

letters from middle-aged people explaining how hard they were pressed by taxation. The Prince appeared in the programme with young Volunteers from Sevenoaks Kent, Rubery, near Birmingham, Glasgow, Haverfordwest and Bristol to mark the launching of the *Nationwide Jubilee Youth Project*, which will report on voluntary work being done by young people throughout Britain.

Lab-Nat pact 'Standard' decision likely soon

By Our Political Staff

Many Labour MPs would find it hard to believe any future parliamentary pact with the nationalists and preferred the Liberals with all their drawbacks, Mr Grant, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

Mr Grant, however, laced with remarks about "unsavoury elements" and "racism", is the first hint that some Labour ministers are taking seriously the prospect of riding a nationalist horse next in their long and perilous journey towards a late general election.

At present they rely on the Liberals to sustain their minority position. But it is at the back of many Labour politicians' minds that, if only devolution could be restarted, there would be a chance for the nationalists to do a deal.

"The Lib-Lab parliamentary

brook Newspapers and the proposed consortium of Sir James Goldsmith's Cavenham Foods and Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland's International Lorch group, generally dubbed "the C-R consortium."

When Sir James made his eleventh-hour request for the suspension of the sale of the *Evening Standard* by Beaverbrook to Associated Newspapers, publisher of the *Evening Standard* and *Daily Mail*, said that four to six weeks would be needed for his proposals to be prepared and for the Beaverbrook board to consider them.

The period expires on June 9, and the union is confident that everything possible is being done to honour that date. The Beaverbrook board is expected to discuss concrete proposals from Sir James this week. It may be a limited plan which involved the underpinning of Beaverbrook

ing of the outcome of the preceding stage and on the successful implementation of progressive proposals, including guarantee of borrowings, cancellation of the outstanding shares, probably rights issue and restructuring of the Beaverbrook board, with Sir James and Mr. Rowland being appointed to the board and gaining substantial control of the company.

So far there is no indication of the reactions of the Aitken family, who would lose power and would not get as good a price for their holdings as in the proposed Associated Newspapers purchase. The trustees of the charitable Beaverbrook Foundation, mainly the Aitken family but including outside members, have also a part to play in the final decisions.

The Associated's appropriateness with the Government

Failing round-table talks among all the protagonists before Beaverbrook directly come to terms with Carver, the British magnate's later talks between the restructured company and Associated to try to save both the London evening newspaper and maximize the use of Beaverbrook's modestly sized plant in New York.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the News International group, which publishes the *Sun* and *News of the World*, denied last night that a lunch he had with Carver was anything to do with the current situation. "My New York business is beginning to go well, but it is essentially a full-time operation and there is no thought in my mind of this," he said.

Mr Murdoch said a letter he left to fly back to New York

Pig subsidies may be resumed

By Hugh Clayton
British ministers have consistently maintained the pig subsidy against the European Court. Although the Government accepted an order from the court to stop the payments, it may confine the restriction under which they are entered.

That means that will come on June 1st. The Government is presently considering continuing pig aid, but reserving the subsidy to the extent that it covers the subsidy itself but not the manner of its introduction.

Ministers hope the rule in Britain's favour will be the summer. The Government already provided for the bill of Britain's subsidy later.

Action on the subsidy will depend on the

Teachers urge guidance on sit-ins

In a letter to Mrs Williams, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, members of the Association of Polytechnic Teachers yesterday expressed concern at the recent increase in students' protests and called for guidance on preventive measures - to be given to local authorities and police.

In the letter, Dr Anthony Poinson, national secretary of the association, said that since his had passed the stage when they should be countenanced in silence. Physical assault, intimidation and destruction of property were becoming increasingly the preserve of the police and local authorities, and the law apparently helpless to prevent such behaviour.

Dr Poinson said the role of the police was uncertain. It was often said that the police force had Home Office instructions to avoid interfering with the students.

"The result is that since his not only appear to take place without our interference from the law but actually under its protection." On some occasions, he added, the students had broken into locked buildings in the presence of the police, where the police had helped to remove staff from buildings the students wished to occupy.

George Ince 'shows signs of premature aging'

The health of Mr. George Ince has deteriorated to a potentially irreparable degree, according to an independent medical report disclosed yesterday. He is wearing a 15-year sentence at Wormwood Scrubs, where he was sentenced for his part in the Mountaineering building robbery.

Dr. Anthony Whitehead, a consultant psychiatrist, said that when Mr. Ince was visited earlier this month he showed signs of premature aging, had a chronic institutionalized appearance and was extremely confused and suffering from a tremor in his hands and abnormally dilated pupils.

"In my opinion this

deterioration will continue and possibly accelerate", Dr. Whitehead said. "If he has to complete a further substantial period of imprisonment I think there is a serious danger that his mental health will be irreparably damaged."

Dr. Whitehead said Mr. Ince's condition to drug treatment.

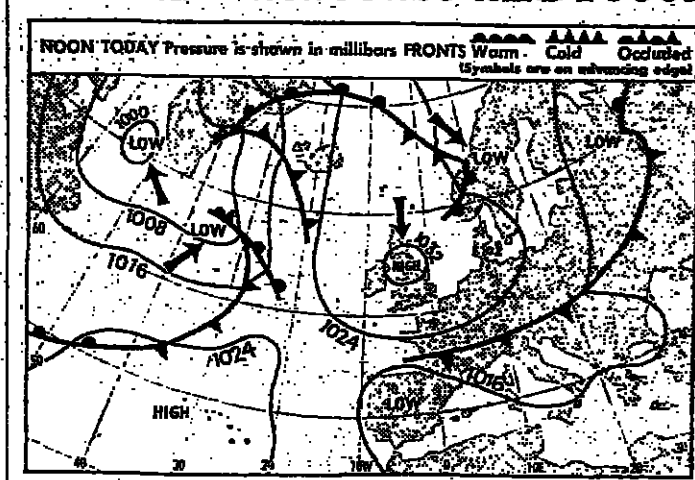
Dr. Whitehead's findings were read to an inquiry by Prof. (Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners) into the Hull prison riot. The inquiry, on its last day, became a platform to views on a number of cases of alleged prison injuries.

Ince's appeal for release from his sentence, on the ground of conviction under mistaken identity, was recently rejected.

Visit of President

President Carter's son, Chip, and his wife, Callaghan, will visit Britain from June 12 at the invitation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Weather forecast and recordings



Four rail deaths after 'error of judgment'

An error in judgment and the not gross negligence led to the deaths of four railwaymen killed by a passenger train. Dr Max Lucas, the Bedfordshire coroner, said yesterday. Verdicts of accidental death were recorded on the four track men struck by the 1 pm London-bound train at Chimesy Corner, near Bedford, on May 12.

Dr Lucas said: "According to the rule-book the chairman, Mr Dennis Chamberlain, of York Street, Bedford, was responsible for the safety of the track men assembling and for the train appointing a look-out."

"This is a tragedy totally unexpected," he added. "Accidental death is a verdict of circumstance and not of crime," he added. "There is no evidence that anyone did anything recklessly."

Earlier, Mr Chamberlain said he had appointed Tyrone Parker as look-out. Parker was one of the workmen who died.

Power strike ends

The strike of maintenance workers at Scottish power stations, which threatened electricity supplies throughout central Scotland, ended last night when 1,200 men at five stations returned to work.

Rock Follies

The television programme *Rock Follies* will not be shown tomorrow night because of a production dispute at Thames Television.

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London: Temp: Max
7 pm, 13°C (55°F):
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Overseas selling prices

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ME NEWS

Varley pledges support for strike film processors

Christopher Thomas, Secretary of the Industry, pledged yesterday for a 42 per cent increase in the basic price of film processing. "I am not a negotiator," he said. "I am a supporter of the basic price of film processing and movement."

The strike, involving film processors from East Africa who originally started their protest for improved working conditions, has a history of arrests, convictions, High Court action and clashes with the police. The strike is being organized from June 13.

Delegates unanimously supported a motion calling for the "blackening" of supplies to film processors and for members not to use Trucolor, Bonapool or Monochrome film.

Pay restraint plan: Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, made a strong appeal yesterday for a third round of pay policy. "If we do not get an agreement on inflation by the end of the year, it will be more difficult to preserve and we shall all be worse off."

It was the unanimous view of all in the Government that a new pay agreement was an important component of the overall strategy. "If we do not get an agreement, our job will be that much more difficult. It is in the interests of all of us to agree on a new phase three."

His reception at the annual conference of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apecs) at Scarborough was cordial. The union has given support in principle for a third year of restraint but has proposed several conditions, including more money for the National Enterprise Board.

Family allowances not feast of prosperity

Mr. Hodgkinson, Policy Correspondent, in his poor performance in stretching family allowances to stretch family allowances is being up to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

Department of Health Social Security gave evidence to the commission showing that over the 30 years the postwar reconstruction welfare benefits the value of family allowances has risen by five pence, despite the fact that the growth in general living costs has been over £1.50 a week for the

Heffer wants action on inflation and prices

Aurice Corina, Editor, demanded for reflation of the economy and action on prices. Heffer, member of the Labour Party, said that the Government must introduce policies to reflate the economy and to restore at least some of the gains in public expenditure.

Mrs. Patterson said the rank and file of the trade union movement were worried about high unemployment and high prices. A clear message to the Government was to act in cutting both. Prices plan, page 19

Land article is fined drug charges

Freelance journalist as the go-between for the Mail's "Levy" slush report was fined at Bow Magistrates' Court yesterday for drug charges. His woman also was fined.

Under small cannabis in propagation trays, smoking pipes and an LSD were found after Nicholas and Mrs. Viera Manning were taken to Canterbury station in relation to the matter, Mr. Evelyn, the magistrate, was told.

Parents lose plea for state school

Parents of a boy, aged 12, who had only three weeks' schooling since July 1975, were told by the court that they must state school.

The parents, from Luton, Bedfordshire, were refused leave to appeal yesterday by the House of Lords Appeal Committee yesterday to challenge a Court of Appeal ruling that they must state school.

Six affect eight

Eight people, including three children, were taken to hospital yesterday after fumes from a chemical plant leaked into a bedroom at a house in Enfield, Essex. They were all later.

Mentmore could have lived, says Lord Bath

From Alan Hamilton, Bath

If Mentmore Towers had been opened to the public, its potential could have been realized, says Lord Bath.

The estate, which has been sold off by Lord Bath, was a successful estate house-entrepreneur, said yesterday.

But Lord Bath, speaking at the opening of a new museum in the grounds of his former mansion, Longleat House, in Wilton, Wiltshire, conceded that the estate house could have survived only because of the circumstances he provided in the grounds. And he admitted his celebrated lions were losing a whisker of their appeal.

Longleat House, a Suffolk-based company, which built the estate, was a model of a house-entrepreneur, said yesterday.

In the past, Lord Bath said, Longleat House had been a viable business proposition on its own, with 135,000 visitors in 1964. After the introduction of the house had risen to 225,000, but attendance figures had fallen in recent years.

"We are still keeping our heads above water," Lord Bath said, "but our entrance charges are already among the highest for any country house and we are going up again this year."

But Mentmore could have been alive today, even if they had only opened the house, they need not have had lions and roundabouts in the garden.

Oil alone will not solve Britain's difficulties

Treasury chief's farewell warning

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Bryan Hopkin, retiring Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury and Head of the Government Economic Service, leaves Whitehall today with the warning that North Sea oil alone will not solve Britain's economic difficulties and restore full employment.



Sir Bryan Hopkin: "We have messed up capitalism."

What is necessary if future growth on the exchange rate is to be avoided, Sir Bryan believes, is increased industrial efficiency and a drive to make British goods "competitive" in international markets. It is the best way, he believes, to balance the balance of payments improvement provided by the fruits of the North Sea and any upward movement in the world economy.

Reflecting in an interview with *The Times*, on almost 40 years of government service since he entered the Ministry of Health as an assistant principal in 1938, Sir Bryan, now 62, recalled the trap into which Keynesians like himself had fallen.

As an undergraduate at Cambridge he had heard Keynes lecture from the proofs of his *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* before it was published in 1933.

A quietly spoken, rather shy Welshman, without the fire often associated with his race ("I'm not a great one for 'jump'"), he said, Sir Bryan admitted: "Fine tuning for full employment, which I believed in, has contributed to the problem of inflation. It was the natural result of planning for full employment."

The remedy he proposed was

Chief Economic Adviser in the Treasury since he succeeded Sir Kenneth Berrill in October 1974, was an income policy and tighter control of demand. He fought off successfully the attempts by Professor Lord Kaldor, who until last summer was special adviser to the Chancellor, the Exchequer, to convert the Treasury to protectionism.

Lord Kaldor, Sir Bryan's friends recall, stimulated him to do what he does best, the swift preparation of first-class papers of economic analysis. His capacity for original thinking on technical problems like the impact of the exchange rate on the balance of payments, financial balances and the day-to-day pressures of his post aroused quiet admiration in Treasury chambers.

£200m petrol complex 'threat to village'

From Our Correspondent, Kirkcaldy

Fife Planning Committee yesterday recommended approval of a £200m petrochemical complex and marine terminal, despite objections that it was "potentially a major hazard", that recreational and tourist activities on the coast would be affected and that a village of 64 houses would have to be demolished.

The proposals are to build a two-plant complex, which will be one of the largest in the world, at Mossburn, with a marine terminal at Braefoot Bay, near Dalgety Bay. The Secretary of State for Scotland has announced that a planning inquiry will open on June 27. So far there are 400 objectors, many complaining of the potential hazard.

The planning committee's recommendations, which will be discussed by Fife Regional Council today, include the removal of Gray Park village

and an assurance that the two oil companies involved, Shell UK and Esso Chemical, which will be processing oil from the Brent field in the North Sea, have adequate fire-fighting facilities.

The building of the plants and terminal would employ up to 3,500 men, and 350 permanent jobs would be created. It is estimated that 650 more would be possible if allied industries were established.

Planning officials told the committee that although the complex and terminal might be a serious hazard their consultants, Cremer and Warner, "consider there is no reason to doubt that the plants and terminal can be designed, built and operated in such a manner to be acceptable in terms of environmental impact and community safety."

Dr E. L. Sreestfield, of Cremer and Warner, said: "We are dealing with what is potentially a major hazard situation."

Confidence on curricula

By Our Education Correspondent

The question of a challenge in the courts on the powers of the Secretary of State for Education and Science to impose a national school curriculum was unlikely to arise, Mr. Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday.

He was commenting on the report in *The Times* on Saturday that Mr. Alan Evans, secretary of the union's education committee, had said that any

attempt by the Government to impose "a national framework for the school curriculum" as proposed in the draft Green Paper on education, would be challenged in the courts.

Mr. Jarvis added that Mrs. Williams, the Secretary of State, had said she did not want to see a centrally imposed curriculum. "If the Green Paper were to envisage any departure from that intention, the Government would have to change the law," Mr. Jarvis said.



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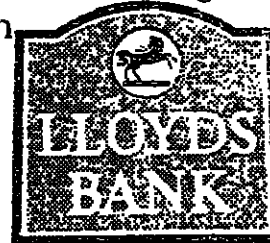
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OVERSEAS

Mrs Carter leaves on South American tour as her husband's special envoy

From Fred Einery
Washington, May 30

Mrs Rosalynn Carter, the President's wife, left today on her first diplomatic mission, a fortnight's journey to South American countries, including disgruntled allies like Brazil.

Mrs Carter is travelling as the President's personal envoy, but she insists that she will do no negotiating. White House officials emphasize, however, that this is meant to be more than the traditional goodwill tour.

The President has made it clear that he does not wish to travel outside the United States again this year and so is sending his wife and a special political partner. "There could be no more dramatic demonstration of the President's interest in Latin America," Mr. Jody Powell, the President's press secretary, said.

Mrs Carter said before she left: "I can give them an overall general view of our foreign policy. I can explain to them that, in the Carter Administration, there will be an open and wider foreign policy."

Obviously, she will also be able to convey Mr. Carter's views and report back to him the comments of her hosts.

There have been ample advance reports of political and social handshakes to put Mrs Carter on her mettle. During her indiscreet election campaigning, mostly on her own, she showed much intelligence and toughness beneath that soft Georgia peach in the mouth.

Washington, unofficially, made it clear they thought their own importance, and their present impasse in relations over nuclear arms and human rights, required more than a mere First Lady. Other macho complaints, however, in Washington suggested that other hosts were somewhat nettled at having to deal with a woman they presume uninformed.

They may be in for some surprises. Mrs Carter is a better public speaker than her husband and she has been taking Spanish lessons for the past three months. She has been to half a dozen Latin American countries before when her husband was governor of Georgia. In Ecuador, she surprised observers if she took a populist lead from her husband's book and charmed people where she could not impress governments.

She will fly, in succession, to Jamaica, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Colombia and



President Carter and his daughter Amy see Mrs Carter to a waiting jet aircraft in St Simons Island, Georgia, on her way to visit seven countries of South America.

Venezuela. Officials here say that the countries have been chosen carefully to make a number of policy points, ranging from friendly democracies to allied military regimes that are not beyond the pale. She is not going to Chile.

There will be much emphasis on a mutual "reassessment" of hemispheric relations, as proposed by the President in his Pan-American Day speech last month.

Mrs Carter will also be able to bring reassurance on two important issues for all countries south of the border. The

first one is that negotiations are going well for a new arrangement governing the Panama Canal. A new fair deal with Panama is seen as the gauge of American commitment by virtually all Latin Americans.

Secondly, there is the question of illegal immigration into the United States. The issue mostly concerns Mexico, which is exporting its overpopulation, but all countries in the Hemisphere have an interest in how the fate of six million or so illegal aliens already here is settled.

Mrs Carter is likely to take

with her an explanation of the impending amnesty and of future immigrants.

St Simons Island, Georgia, May 30.—President Carter said today he expected indications in the next few weeks of improved relations between the United States and Cuba, but said they would stop "far short of recognition."

Talking to reporters at Brunswick, where he saw his wife off, said: "It would be better for this Hemisphere if Cuba had good relations with the nations here."—AP.

Mr Young's achievements praised by US President

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, May 30

President Carter believes that far from moving too fast with his African policy, his progress has been too slow.

"We see the possibility of war in the southern part of Africa as being ever-present," Mr Carter said in an interview with the weekly US News and World Report.

He said that there had been no disagreement between himself and Mr Andrew Young, his permanent representative to the United Nations, "on the thrust of our policy or statements on Africa."

Mr Carter said that Mr Young had made great strides in repairing the damage of past hatreds which developing coun-

tries had for the United States. He had also given the Carter Administration "a very clear understanding of the opportunities" for the United States in the Third World.

"If there's one overwhelming impression that's growing on me, it's the long-range strategic need—looking 10, 15, 20 years in the future—for a close friendship and mutual trust, social and political alliance with the developing nations of the world," the President said.

Mr Carter refused to be drawn on the Likud victory in the Israeli general election, except to say that he could not believe any reasonable Israeli leader would not maintain a commitment to withdraw from occupied territory in return for peace.

Bangladesh poll backs President

Dacca, May 30.—First results from today's referendum in Bangladesh on President Ziaur Rahman and his policies were heavily in favour of the President.

Results from 13 polling centres showed 19,574 votes for and 207 against. Unofficial results indicated that he had received 213,506 votes in 127 centres, with 2,016 against.

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West fails to prevent Namibia hanging

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, May 30

Filemon Nangolo, convicted last year of murdering four whites in Namibia (South-West Africa), was hanged in Windhoek at dawn today despite appeals by the five Western members of the United Nations Security Council for a reprieve.

Mr Nangolo, who was 26, was convicted as an accomplice in the murders last year of Mrs Shirley Lowy and her son Bertus, aged 12, and a German couple, Mr Gerd Walther and his wife Elke. He had been paralysed from his waist down after being wounded by police in an exchange of fire.

Last Friday Sir David Scott, the British Ambassador to South Africa, delivered a Note to the South African Government calling for a stay of execution and a commutation of sentence. Representatives of the American, French, West German and Canadian Embassies made similar appeals.

They argued that Mr Nangolo's execution, coming at this particular juncture, would make more difficult the task of the five Western nations trying to negotiate a peaceful solution for the territory's future.

Their intervention followed an appeal by Mr Daniel Tjongarero, deputy chairman of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), to the United Nations to stop the execution. He said it would break down all possibilities of an internal solution to the problems of Namibia.

Meanwhile a diplomatic Note from the five-nation contact group was handed to the South African Government today aimed at arranging a further meeting with the South Africans.

It now seems likely that representatives of the contact group will meet Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, and other Cabinet ministers next week, possibly on June 8. The Security Council is due to begin a series of talks on South Africa's policies on June 6.

Before then it is expected there will be a meeting in Cape Town between the Government and members of the Turnhalle conference. It will be their first meeting since the Turnhalle delegates had talks with Western representatives in Windhoek last month and since Mr Vorster's meeting with Vice-President Mondale of the United States in Vienna.

It is hoped that two key issues will be clarified during the forthcoming talks involving the Turnhalle, South Africa and the Western nations. The first is to what extent the 11 ethnic groups represented at the Turnhalle, would be prepared to drop their ethnic differences and take part in free elections on a multiracial basis.

Five of the groups, headed by Dr. Benjuma Afrika, have agreed in principle to establish a non-racial political party based on the Turnhalle conference. However, some of the other groups, notably the whites, are guarded on this issue.

The second issue concerns South Africa's original intention to pass legislation during the interim administration setting up an interim government for the territory based on the Turnhalle conference.

Mr Mondale indicated in Vienna that any interim administration must be broadly representative and acceptable to all Namibians and the international community.

On Friday Mr Vorster told Parliament that legislation would be introduced to establish a "central administrative authority" for the territory. He avoided any references to an "interim government", which has reinforced speculation that he is prepared to give way to the West on this point.

British regret: The Foreign Office expressed "great regret" at today's execution. It said that Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, had told Swapo of his personal concern at the fate of Mr Nangolo.

Zambia call for walkout over Uganda

Lusaka, May 30.—President Kaunda of Zambia left today for a European tour which will include the Commonwealth summit in London beginning on June 8.

At the left, the semi-official Times of Zambia called President Amin of Uganda a "monster or madman or both" who had disgraced Africa and said efforts should be made to prevent him from attending the London summit.

In a leading article the newspaper said that if President Amin attended, other African leaders should walk out when he spoke.

President Kaunda's tour is to take him to Belgium, West Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, the Vatican, Austria, France and Britain.—Reuters.

Army unity plea in Argentina

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, May 30

General Jorge Rafael Videla, the Army commander and President, has called for "monolithic unity" within the Argentine Army while pointedly stating that "nothing and nobody" will divert its leaders from their present course.

In an Army Day speech yesterday, seen as a strong reply to right wing critics within the forces, General Videla re-emphasized that dialogue with civilian sectors was the best way to restore national unity and avert any isolation of the military Government.

The idea of consultation with politicians and others is believed to have aroused considerable impatience among some officers.

Timing open on Quebec independence plebiscite

From John Best
Ottawa, May 30

The Parti Québécois movement of Quebec has been given a free hand by the party membership to work out the timing of its proposed referendum on the province's separation from Canada.

Delegates to the party's weekend policy convention in Montreal passed a series of moderate resolutions that generally agreed with the government and demonstrated Premier René Lévesque's command of the party.

The 1,500 delegates rescheduled the party's earlier pledge to take an independent Quebec out of NATO and the agreement between the United States and Canada on North American air defence. They did not, however, change their party's commitment to "a pacifist foreign policy based on the rejection of recourse to war."

Mr Bernard Landry, Economic Development Minister for the province, explained the change on NATO by saying that the Warsaw Pact countries had shown little sign of demobilization in recent years. The socialist parties of western Europe accepted NATO. "Why would a socialist democratic party like ours do otherwise?"

Despite strong arguments for pinning the government down on a time for the independence referendum, the convention decided to let Mr Lévesque and his ministers arrange their own timing. The Premier has said that the vote would take place some time in his first five-year term, which began November 1.

A resolution adopted by the convention said the Parti Québécois would "promote as far as possible the autonomy of Quebec during the period to be spent in the present federal regime." This conforms with the Lévesque government's policy of working within the Canadian Confederation while Quebec remains a part of it, but at the same time trying to widen its jurisdiction.

The government's overall control of the convention did not prevent delegates from passing a group of resolutions, opposed by ministers, effectively endorsing the principle of abortion on demand.

Mr Lévesque immediately announced that the government would consider itself bound by the resolutions: "A decision on such a controversial issue cannot be made at the congress level alone."

The delegates strongly supported language legislation being considered which would severely restrict the use of English in the province's school system.

New Egyptian town

Cairo, May 30.—President Sadat yesterday laid the stone of a new industrial town east of here, the first of six residential and industrial centres designed to relieve congestion in Cairo.

Danger seen of Soviet attack by miscalculation

Continued from page 1

bigger than those in the Warsaw Pact, although Britain's and France's new restructured divisions will be (if anything) slightly smaller. There are also more extra divisional forces, such as corps troops and independent brigades.

4,000 Canadian troops in Europe are added and perhaps 20,000 Danes who would also probably be involved on the fringe of the central European battlefield, a total of 725,000 soldiers is reached.

For the purposes of negotiating at the troop reduction talks in Vienna, NATO has assessed the number of Warsaw Pact troops in the central region at 925,000. But this is the sum total of the armies involved.

Professor William Kaufmann of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Pentagon consultant analyst, has estimated the number of combat troops as 730,000. On this calculation the active manpower ratio in central Europe is not unreasonable, although the Warsaw Pact has considerably more tanks. Nor does this include the American, British and French brigades in Berlin which, although obviously vulnerable, might tie down some Warsaw Pact troops in the initial phase.

The old convention that an attack should build up a three-to-one advantage before being confident of breaking through the defence is hardly relevant any more. For one thing it presupposes that the defensive position is well fortified, and for another it has been overtaken by advances in firepower and mobility.

Dr James Schlesinger, when United States Secretary of Defence, said that an aggressor in central Europe could probably achieve a breakthrough with a superiority of only 1.5 to one.

Even so, given the uncertainties, it is more likely that if the Russians ever did contemplate war on the West they would prefer to add their 28 divisions in the western military districts of the Soviet Union to the in-place forces in East Europe. This would give the Warsaw Pact a total of 86 divisions on line, or more probably, in echelon.

Only three of these 28 divisions are Category-1 units. Seventeen more are Soviet Category-2 divisions kept at between half and three-quarters strength, and the remaining three are Category-3, with more than a third of their full establishment.

FORCES TABLE				
	Categories	3	Total	
Germany/Poland/Czech	1	2	27	
Hungary	2	—	4	
Western military districts	3	17	8	28
Northern military districts	4	7	2	9
Caucasian military districts	5	2	14	16
Moscow	6	2	24	86
Central Soviet Union	7	—	10	10
Southern Soviet Union	8	4	17	21
Far East	9	20	21	10
Total	10	56	51	61

This table shows the current positioning of Soviet Army divisions. It is generally assumed that those in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and the 28 units in the western military districts of the Soviet Union, would be used in central Europe.

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reat to children fugitive

May 30.—Antonio described as the brain of a gang led by Renato Vallone, he joined Italian soldiers, intended to kill children imprisoned women, all members of the same are not released by police reported today.

Colia, aged 30, from jail with five members early this

he said they had received in which Signor said: making several attempts in police that my girl Giuseppina Uselli, and I friends of two of my use innocent. I myself all responsibility death which I will with bombs and any cans I have if Tuesday those persons are not

so said: "I have the of destroying lives of —AP.

alists' cars in fire

May 30.—The cars of local Socialist Party were set on fire at capital of the Porto Maderia islands, where Socialists have denounced on a freedom.

Asorés, Socialists have by may cease activity of threats to their Separatist movements island groups are seeking independence from the Agency France-Presse.

stressed: less over plaster: act

Do you actually know what you're signing for?

Whether you want an office block or a factory, a supermarket or a school, commissioning a new building can mean taking decisions involving hundreds of thousands of pounds.

You sign the cheques, and you're responsible to your shareholders or ratepayers — yet it's unlikely that you've got any more experience with the building industry than anyone else in your organisation.

So, how do you provide yourself with a failsafe? You could call in a collection of professionals, and either trust in their integrity or trust to your luck.

Or you could call in a team of professionals, such as the Lesser Design & Build team.

Design & Build: What's the difference? Simple: the Design & Build concept places everything in the hands of one organisation, with one source of responsibility. That way, if anything should go wrong, you know exactly where to go for redress.

Save time and money. Lesser have frequently cut pre-construction time

by up to 75%, total project time by up to 50%, and overall costs by up to 10%. (And remember, 10% of a £1m contract is £100,000 — money which can be used for further development and expansion.)

"The Professionals"

To help you understand a little bit more about building (and what can go wrong if there's no proper control) Lesser have commissioned a light-hearted guide to the construction industry: "The Professionals" — and how to understand what they're talking about.

Its tone is irreverent — but its facts are rock-solid. If you're ever likely to be signing a cheque for a new building, you'll find "The Professionals" worth its weight in gold. Because, the next time you're talking with one of the professionals, you'll know exactly what he's talking about.

And, more important, you'll be able to tell whether he knows what he's talking about...

Next time an architect or a builder talks to me, I'd like to know what he's saying. Please send me a copy of "The Professionals".

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N Korea leader lends name to exotic orchid

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, May 30

Horticulturists in Hongkong, Manila and Tokyo have been informed that "an exotic new type of orchid" has been cultivated in North Korea.

It has been named Kimilsung in homage to President Kim Il Sung.

The small leaflets from Pyongyang — clearly official but bearing no government imprimatur — do not describe the appearance, colour or attributes of the new orchid. But a Hongkong botanist has predicted that, if the orchid reflected the qualities of its name, it "would seek to spread its roots into neighbouring gardens".

Clean for the Queen

Please organise a voluntary sponsored clean-up to raise money for the Jubilee Fund as well as local causes. An organiser's guide and material supplied on receipt of 13p stamps for postage and packaging.

Keep Britain Tidy Group.
Bostel House, 37 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE.

Incorporating the Keep Scotland Tidy and Keep Wales Tidy Campaigns. The Queen's Jubilee Fund is a registered charity. All donations are tax deductible.



OVERSEAS

India orders a judicial inquiry into Nagaland troubles

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, May 30

The Indian Government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the two days of violent disturbances last week in Dimapur, the chief Nagaland town of the plains and an important Army staging post.

Mr Charan Singh, the Home Affairs Minister, announcing the inquiry, blamed "certain misguided sections of students and of the youth of Nagaland" who had committed deplorable acts of violence, arson, and looting.

According to reports from Nagaland, about 50 people, chiefly student leaders, have been arrested during disturbances in which about 60 to 70 buildings in Dimapur were set on fire. No figures have been given of the injured.

Dimapur is a town with a large immigrant population, including many Punjabis and Bengalis. Historically, the Nagas have shunned the plains, but economic progress has brought them down from the hills.

Although the Indian Government, which set up Nagaland as a state in 1963 in answer to the armed struggle for independence, has funded Nagaland's development budget more generously than that of any other state, the Nagas continue to feel underprivileged.

The United Democratic Front (UDF), which allied itself with the Janata (People's) Party to defeat the Congress Party in March, included more economic development, especially for the backward areas, in its 10-point programme.

The defeat of the Congress Party underlined strong local sentiment for a greater degree of regional autonomy, despite Delhi's sensitivity on the whole issue.

The UDF accepted the

November 1975 Shillong peace agreement, which substantially ended the intermittent guerrilla struggle, and the party is now hoping to win power in the state legislative elections promised by Delhi for this autumn.

Before the elections take place, the UDF is also hoping for the "final settlement" which was promised in the Shillong agreement to the Nagaland problem. In particular, it is hoping that next month's meeting in London between Mr Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister, and Mr A. Z. Phizo, the exiled Naga leader, will, at the least, cause the veteran leader to associate himself with a settlement which the UDF believes the overwhelming majority of Nagas now want.

Naxalites freed: The Naxalites, the extreme left-wing guerrillas once much feared in India, are now a spent force, divided among 10 rival factions. Many of their former militant leaders are physically broken after several years' imprisonment, often in primitive country jails. As a humanitarian gesture, the Government has just released about 500 of these detainees in exchange for the release of the Naxalite movement with the ultimate indignity: the fate of about 400 more Naxalites still in jail now depends on a review of individual cases by a committee of civil servants.

These officials sit, moreover, in the Writers' Building, Calcutta, a famous Victorian red brick and ironwork monument to the British Raj. Bureaucracy must really be indestructible, the Naxalites no doubt think, as they sit in their cells, pondering the future of India, the pledge of future good political conduct which the Bengali civil servants require of them.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi to be given bail if arrested

Delhi, May 30.—Mr Sanjay Gandhi, son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, was today granted a request for bail should he be arrested during investigations into his business affairs. He had asked on Saturday for anticipatory bail.

Mr Justice V. D. Mishra of the Delhi High Court ruled that Mr Gandhi, who headed the Maruti group of companies which is to be investigated by a Government commission, should be freed on 5,000-rupees (£330)

bail with a surety for the same amount. It is common in India to grant bail before arrest.

At the same time, Indian tax authorities announced plans to sell parts of the Maruti car factory to recover tax arrears of about £63,000.

Two days ago the Government set up a one-man commission to investigate the Maruti group, which during Mrs Gandhi's rule was awarded a licence to mass-produce a small "people's car".—Reuter.

Mr Bhutto to discuss crisis with Opposition

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, May 30

Mr Bhutto has agreed to open negotiations on Friday with the opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) to discuss the country's worst political crisis for six years.

The Prime Minister has met Mr Murtaza Bhutto, the PNA president, several times in the last two months but this week's talks will be formal negotiations between the two sides, each represented by three leaders. Mr Bhutto will head the ruling People's Party negotiators and Mr Murtaza Bhutto will be accompanied by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan of the United Democratic Front and Professor Ghaffar Ahmad of the Jamiatul Islami.

Pakistan's crisis stems from the bitterly contested general election in March which the Opposition alleged was rigged. Opposition leaders rejected several previous requests by Mr Bhutto for negotiations unless he first agreed to call another general election. It appears that a new election will be discussed, although Mr Kausar Niazi, the People's Party secretary, said today that the talks will take place "without any reservations of mind or subject".

Mr Niazi also said that Mr Bhutto had ordered the release from detention of one of the principal PNA leaders, Begum Nasim Wali Khan, as a gesture of goodwill.

Lahore, May 30.—Five senior judges walked out of the Lahore High Court today in protest against a remark by Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, the Attorney General, that one of them should not be on the bench. The court was hearing a petition challenging the imposition of martial law.

The Attorney General later apologized in open court.—Reuter.

Terrorist tract read out to shocked bankers

Guatemala City, May 30.—About 1,200 delegates attending the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank were shocked today when the bank secretary opened the proceedings by reading out a five-page manifesto from the Guerrilla Army of the People.

This left-wing terrorist organization had promised to release Senator Eduardo Casanova Sandoval, the kidnapped Ambassador of El Salvador, on condition that the manifesto was read at the meeting.



Dr Herman reunited with his daughters Janna (left) and Svetlana, in New York.

Reunion for survivor of Stalin

New York, May 30.—Dr Victor Herman has been reunited here with his two Russian daughters, Janna and Svetlana, after 18 years in Siberian prison camps, sometimes eating rats, worms and slugs to survive, and was then exiled with his wife and children beyond the Arctic circle.

Eventually he was pardoned, became a professor of English in Moscow, and was finally allowed to return to the United States last year. Now his daughters have been allowed to join him and soon, he hopes, his wife, whom he says he was forced to divorce, will also be allowed to emigrate.

Yesterday Dr Herman, aged 61, put the horrors of his past away. He drank champagne with his daughters, Svetlana, aged 25, and Janna, 20, who

arrived at Kennedy airport at the weekend, drove with them in a horse and carriage around Central Park and took them to the top of the Empire State Building.

Dr Herman was arrested, with almost all the other Americans in Gorky in 1938 on his return from flying for the Republicans in the Spanish civil war.

He tells of being tortured and nearly starved to death in a prison camp in Siberia where most prisoners died.

Throughout, even after his pardon, he never gave up his American citizenship and always insisted on being allowed to return.—Reuter and AP.

At least 44 die as train plunges into Indian river

Delhi, May 30.—At least 44 people were killed and more than 100 injured today when the locomotive and four coaches of an express train plunged into a river in eastern India. An Indian Army unit travelling on the train managed to rescue about 100 people from the water.

The accident occurred about 70 miles from Gauhati as the train passed over a bridge damaged by rain. The weather was reported to be hampering further rescue efforts.

Official sources in Delhi said it was difficult to estimate the number of passengers in the four coaches. Two of the coaches were still submerged.—Reuter.

Cuba-Jamaica link

Havana, May 30.—Cuba and Jamaica have agreed on a programme of economic and technical cooperation for the next year after a week of meetings.

China accuses Russians of subversion in Africa

Peking, May 30.—China today attacked Soviet strategy in Africa on the front pages of the official newspaper the People's Daily.

The article, which praised "Zaire's routing of a Moscow engineered invasion", was accompanied by a report and map depicting alleged Soviet moves to subvert African economies and seize vital trade routes.

The wording was uncompromising even by Peking's standards. Headed "The Africa madness of the new years", one commentary said that after setbacks in Egypt and Sudan, the "sinister hands of the Russian bear" were stretching into all parts of the continent and even using mercenaries (an allusion to the Cubans).

The newspaper gave a detailed account of Peking's view of the Zaire conflict which, it claimed, had "unmasked the repulsive features of Soviet social imperialism

unmatched in its rapacity and shamelessness".

Moscow, Tass said today that the methods of the new Peking leadership had dashed hopes that the death of Mao Tse-tung would bring "positive changes" in China.

The news agency also accused Chinese leaders of poisoning their people's minds with hatred for the Soviet Union.

Cairo, Egypt, which hopes to improve its strained relations with the Russians but refuses to send its foreign minister to Moscow, remained at loggerheads with the Soviet Union after talks failed today to fix a site for a foreign ministers' meeting.

Mr Vladimir Polyakov, the Soviet Ambassador to Egypt, told Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Foreign Minister, last night and again this morning. An Egyptian spokesman said they reached no agreement on a site for Mr Fahmy's planned meeting with Mr Gromyko.—Reuter.

In brief

Black journalists reject offer

Johannesburg, May 30.—Black journalists here have rejected an attempt by their white colleagues to form a multiracial professional association, a spokesman for the Union of Black Journalists said.

The recent move by the South African Society of Journalists to reconstitute itself outside South Africa's Industrial Conciliation Act, which prohibits black membership, was "another attempt by whites to enter the international arena after being shunned" by the union itself.

Car bomb attack

Tokyo, May 30.—An unattended, radio-controlled car containing a bomb today crashed through a line of police vehicles on the highway leading to Tokyo's central business district, which has been the target of protests for years, but failed to explode.

Audubon prints stolen

Key West, Florida, May 30.—Thieves at the weekend stole more than 400 of James Audubon's watercolours, valued at \$235,300, from his former home here, which is now a museum.

Spy girl well

Manchester, May 30.—A 20-year-old woman held with three others in a Gestapo jail accused of spying is fit and well according to Mr Albert Gunderson, the British Consul, who visited her.

Rig defended

Tripoli, May 30.—The Libyan Government, rejecting claims by Tunisia that an American oil drilling rig, called the I. M. Bates is exploring in Tunisian waters, said it was 26 miles inside Libyan waters.

Nurse on trial

Bangkok, May 30.—Rita Nightingale, aged 23, a nurse from Blackburn, arrested on March 19 for allegedly attempting to smuggle out heroin, will appear in court here on Monday, legal sources said.

\$8m drugs haul

Chester, Nova Scotia, May 30.—Police found 63 tons of hashish and marijuana, worth \$14m (£8,800,000) on board a schooner which docked here. Three Americans and a Canadian were arrested.

Fire bomb deaths

Istanbul, May 30.—A fifth person died today after bomb explosions in an airport and a railway station in Istanbul yesterday. At least 42 people were injured.

MPs unhappy at rate of progress on human rights

By Roger Berthoud

Disappointed but not discouraged, is the verdict of the first House of Commons report on the implementation of the Helsinki agreement of 1975 on security and cooperation in Europe.

Drawn up by the defence and external affairs subcommittee, mainly on the basis of evidence from Whitehall officials, it is not short of advice for Britain's delegation to the Belgrade review conference on the same theme. The preparatory phase opens on June 15.

The MPs found little progress on human rights, and noted that in some cases there appeared to have been a deterioration.

The performance of the Soviet Union and some Eastern European countries in facilitating family contacts is described as disappointing, and Britain intends to raise this "unsatisfactory general performance" at Belgrade, although a number of individual cases had been settled.

The number of visa applications for private visits to Britain by citizens of East European countries had not changed significantly over the past six years, except in the case of Poland, where it increased from 13,428 in 1970, to 19,281 in 1976.

The cost of a passport in the Soviet Union was reduced from 400 to 300 roubles, but the new fee still represented 21 months' average income, the report said. It also remained very high in Poland and Bulgaria.

There was special discrimination against those who wished to visit or be reunited with illegal emigrants or political suspects, especially in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union; and frequently a close relative had to be left behind as a "hostage".

The subcommittee also found little evidence of the positive and humanitarian spirit called for in the Helsinki over-achievements for family reunions.

But the report noted that the Soviet Union had continued to "allow" greater numbers of "ethnic" Germans to leave, that there was a small increase over 1975 in the number of Jews allowed out, and that in both Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia there had been progress in family reunions involving Britons. Relatively few Poles were prevented from leaving for political or security reasons.

The MPs believed that on human rights issues, the Western states should "err on the side of firmness" when steering between two dangers. These were that by pressing too hard for more concessions they might provoke a repressive response, and that by holding back justified criticism the West might seem to be diluting its commitment to the principles at stake.

They felt that Britain should not object in principle if the Eastern bloc raised in Belgrade matters such as the alleged use of illegal interrogation methods by the British Army in Belfast. Indeed, this might even be welcomed in establishing the fact that no country is immune from criticism of its internal affairs, they commented.

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There is still a shortage in secondary schools of specialist teachers of *mathematics; the physical sciences; craft, design and technology*—subjects that are vital to the country's prosperity. To help alleviate this shortage, the Government is offering a number of special Teacher Training Awards. Mainly starting this September, these Awards offer people who have an interest in one of these subjects, and who are at least 28, a year's full-time course in teaching it.

The Award consists of a free, full-time course during the 1977-78 academic year; a maintenance allowance free of tax and other deductions, which in the case of a student with an adult dependant and one child would amount to £58 per week; and a lodging or travel allowance where appropriate.

Who qualifies?

People aged 28 or over who have not followed full time higher or further education courses in the last five years and are:

1. Graduates in mathematics, one of the physical sciences, engineering and allied subjects.
2. Qualified teachers not currently working as teachers in maintained schools.
3. Holders of HND, HNC, full technological certificate of CGLI or an equivalent qualification, with suitable industrial experience for training as teachers of craft, design and technology.

If you're already teaching?

You should consult your employing Authority. They may be able to offer you secondment for training, or retraining, in one of these subjects.

This special Teacher Training Award scheme is for the 1977/78 academic year, and most courses start in September. So act quickly if you're interested. Start now by filling in the coupon for a pamphlet that explains in detail who qualifies, and how to apply.

Please send me the leaflet on the training and retraining of teachers.

Name _____

Address _____

T/1

Post to: Kathy Collins, Information Division,
Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road,
London SE1 7PH.

EXHIBITIONS

GERDA FLOCKEN
BARTHOLOMEW, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

ART GALLERY
BRITISH MUSEUM, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

CRANE KALMAN GA
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

FINE ART SOCIETY
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

ROYAL ACADEMY
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THE MALL GALLERY
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

TRIVON GALLERY
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EDUCATION
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in its

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Deasdale (captain), P. Dury, C. Hay,
S. Linn, J.-L. Maroye, R. Maroye,
J. Maroye, J.-C. Morote, E. Stoupe,
P. Urbain.
Umpires: J. Jonker and R. B.
Wouters (Netherlands).
OTHER RESULTS: For third place:
Czechoslovakia 5, Sweden 3.
Wales (Cologne), (after extra time).
Fifth place: Lampung (Netherlands) 6,
Northampton 0. Seventh place:
Czechoslovakia 1, Poland 1. Eighth
(Czechoslovakia) 1, (Slovakia won on
penalty strokes). Ninth place: FC
Lyon 2, Subaticana 2. (Lyon won
on a substitute's goal). Tenth place:
place: Dinamo Alma Ata (USSR) 5,
Edinburgh City Service 3. (Edinburgh

ns' coach denies use of illegal tactics

BRITISH LIONS: A. R. Irvine, P. J. Smith, G. D. Williams, H. W. Brown, C. Scham, J. S. Williams; P. Bennett, D. O'Brien, M. J. O'Brien, B. J. O'Brien, J. E. Cotton, A. J. Neely, A. J. Martin.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA. May 30.—David Sorrell, the Bristol fall-back, scored 24 points to lead the England under-23 rugby team over British Columbia here.

Sorrell crossed for one of England's six tries, kicked four penalties and converted two goals during his first game since leaving Carlisle. Moggi, Boyle, Cooke and Maxwell scored England's other three tries.

Irvine scored a try, two penalty goals and two conversions for British Columbia. Logan scored a try and Whyte kicked a penalty.

The following players were named as second half five to give British Columbia a 21-15 lead but the England forwards turned the match in their favour minutes later. England led 28 points in the last quarter of the game.—*Renter*.

PORT ELIZABETH. South Africa's first test against Eastern Province was held at Port Elizabeth today.

Megan will not let Lucas get in way of come back

renowned Finnegan's quality and left no stone unturned as they doubt that there is a gap between Minter and himself. It is only a minute or two before he has made his point. He is not having to quote the experience for all. He is a good southerner who has been through the war, has seen many poems, and he gets the title clunker because Bunny Sterling is unavailable. Finnegan, who knows that at 23, there will not be many more years to go, has decided to make the most of it with him conclusively.

John Gardner, of Hickory, has the unexpected chance to win the vacant Commonwealth heavyweight championship by going against Ekwunonu, a Nigerian boxer in Germany, over 19 pounds. Gardner, unbeaten in 23 bouts, will have to wear Ekwunonu down if he is to win. He will be well advised to keep his chin tucked in while he does so. The Nigerian can hit, but he can also be outboxed. Billy Aldred, another Briton, outboxed Ekwunonu last year. He was a real champion of orthodox talent, plus unlimited stamina.

Ironically, this is not really a real match at all for Ekwunonu. If he wins, he will never fight again in his own country, having committed the unpardonable crime of outboxing a world opponent in South Africa! But if he loses, he will never be able to claim a champion, and never mind the technicalities.

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David Parkinson, manager of the New Zealand national team, said yesterday that he was looking for a "joblike performance" from the team. He was speaking before the first of two international matches, David Watkins, flew from Manchester to New Zealand and Australia, for matches against those countries and France.

"I think although the show shows four changes, following the withdrawal of Phil Lowe, Jim Mills, Eddie Cummings and many others, it is not a new team, nor one with many replacements—like Phil Hogan, Peter Smith and Steve Mitchell, all in their early twenties. You can see that they are players from young players, trying to prove themselves that from seasoned players who have been through it all before."

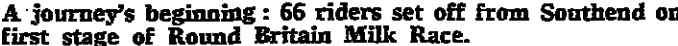
Watkins' World programme, he said, "I am confident that David Watkins, despite the controversy surrounding his selection, will make a valuable contribution to the team as the coach, and I am sure, David Parkinson."

Manager wants 'Jubilee performance'

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Finishing power tells for Szurkowski

Ryszard Szurkowski, of Poland, the 1973 world cycling champion, gained the first stage victory of the 1977 Milk Race, 94 miles from Southern to Norwich, yesterday. The wind had taken the edge off the stage but had prevented breakaways. The entire field of 56 riders completed the finish with Szurkowski still his experience to take victory.

With the pack spread across the road Szurkowski reached the front in 208th place.

He stayed in the lead hand grater, gaining shelter from the wind.

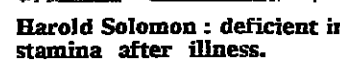
Szurkowski is now overall race leader, due to his being only six miles behind the 20th place rider, patriot Biernik in the opening time trial on Sunday. Officials brought these times, split by tenths of a second, down to full seconds and, as a result, Szurkowski, with his stage win, takes the lead.

FIRST STAGE: 1. R. Szurkowski, (Poland), 2:08.2; 2. J. Biernik, (Poland), 2:08.4; 3. H. Kolle, (Switzerland), same time; 4. S. H. Koller, (Switzerland), same time; 5. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 6. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 7. A. Tal, (Netherlands), same time; 8. A. Tal, (Netherlands), same time; 9. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 10. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 11. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 12. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 13. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 14. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 15. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 16. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 17. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 18. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 19. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 20. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 21. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 22. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 23. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 24. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 25. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 26. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 27. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 28. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 29. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 30. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 31. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 32. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 33. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 34. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 35. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 36. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 37. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 38. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 39. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 40. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 41. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 42. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 43. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 44. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 45. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 46. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 47. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 48. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 49. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 50. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 51. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 52. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 53. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 54. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 55. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time; 56. J. P. Noman, (Netherlands), same time.

Solomon too weak for a tough challenge

he's looking into forming. Of what? He's been called the shock troops. Smith and Phillip Dent are players, playing fortably well. As for Brian, he's got it. Gotried, he maintains an admirably consistent level of performance. He's an extraordinarily interesting survivor. Always one of the most agreeable, most typical of Australians, he was an outstanding junior and at 27 seems not to be mellowing into the kind of old-fashioned, unadorned, unadorned ought to be. He beat Nastase to reach the last four of the Italian championship and has a real mentalist feel about him in the final.

Dent is the first Australian to reach the last eight here since 1970. His last left ankle has been a suspect since he was bandaged after he has been playing long matches.



and has never been more consistently able in directing his business than when he was in court. He suggests that his present form may partly arise from the decision that he must play his own game. "I tried to play too much like a clay-court, but I'm not like that. I've got to hit them with anything going in. I can't finesse with the boys. I've decided, it would be a joke. I've made up my mind I'm going to play in a certain way and give it everything."

Those who know their Deut well are not surprised to hear that he pushes some of the credit to others, notably Rod Laver and a professional athlete, Henry Hines.

Results at Beckenham and Manchester

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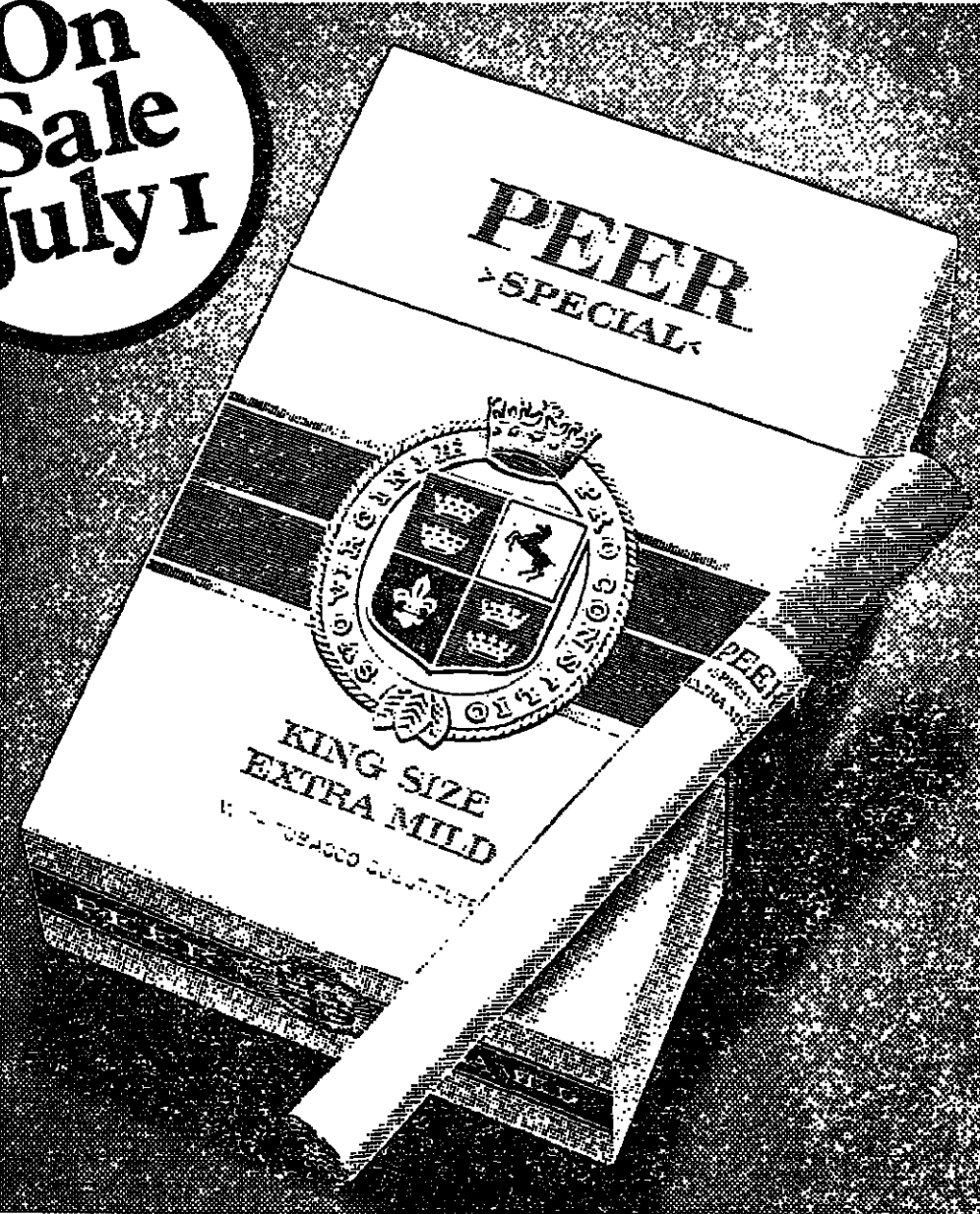
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SPORT

Racing

Dream day for Durtal on the downs

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Anyone who has already backed Durtal to win at Epsom on Saturday or who is contemplating doing so would only have been encouraged if they had seen her work on the Downs above Lambourn yesterday morning. Riding by her big race jockey, Lester Piggott, she went exceptionally well in a gallop which was a complete contrast to the disastrous workout she had given on that occasion everything went wrong from beginning to end; so wrong in fact that her trainer Barry Hills was adamant that it was best forgotten, like a nightmare.

This time, however, everything went right: throughout the race, reflection it was the sort of gallop that a trainer would regard as a dream come true. They were almost a mile uphill parallel to the Farnborough Road and Hills himself led the way riding the four-year-old Lord Hopsus just to ensure that the pace would be right throughout. Just for the record Lord Hopsus won the Silver Jubilee Stakes 10 days ago by six lengths with 9.5 to 5 on his last.

Yesterday with his trainer aboard he went a good gallop from the start and Piggott left several lengths behind Lord Hopsus and their other galloping companion, Lady Hopsus. Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom in April and then finished third in the Irish 1000 Guineas. They undulated their way up the Farnborough Road and Hills decided that the moment was right to give Durtal her head and make his move. When he did the response was electrifying.

Quickening her pace as only a good racehorse could Durtal past her two galloping companions and took complete command. Hills was justifiably pleased with this impressive victory. On the contrary some Piggott who said afterwards that

he thought she would definitely win the Oaks if she gets the trip. Looking at Durtal's pedigree there is every reason to believe that she will, provided that she settles and releases early on.

Outsiders though they may have been on this occasion neither Lord Hopsus nor Lady Hopsus were disgraced. They were simply outpuzzled by a far better filly. Lord Hopsus now goes for the Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown next Monday. Lady Hopsus for the Diomed Stakes at Epsom tomorrow.

Talking about the Derby later Piggott told me that he now thinks he will just about win it on The Minerva provided he gets a good run. The one he seems to fear most of all is Lucky Sovereign, who impresses so many when he wins the Dante Stakes at York. Lucky Sovereign, Piggott reasons, could have improved out of all proportion this year. He is by Nijinsky, who himself won the Derby seven years ago.

Strangely, Derby winners have not been so many when he is in their attempts to get one to follow in their footsteps, at least since the war. In fact in that year only three have won it. He has achieved the feat and even he has luck on his side when his son Lord Hopsus's chance was made easier by the fall of several of his rivals racing down the hill towards Tattenham Corner.

In the last 10 years the winner of the Derby has been bred in five of the six counties and at least Lucky Sovereign does fall into that category, as do Be My Guest, Almondegreen, Night Before and The Minister. Deciding whether or not to back in the Derby can be tricky at the best of times and by common consent it is even trickier this year.

The fact that the horse has not run over more than a mile before D Day should not be regarded as a disadvantage. On the contrary some will regard it as a source of

encouragement knowing that Royal Palace, Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, Mill Reef, Roberto and Grundy all won the Derby and have never lost over any distance since.

When it comes to the crunch many is the person who will turn a blind eye to rhyme and reason and simply follow the man of the hour choice and when it comes to the Derby no one commands a greater following than Lester Piggott, who has already won it seven times and been placed second on four other occasions. No other jockey riding in tomorrow's epic can even begin to match his record. In fact apart from Piggott none have even won it more than once. Of those taking part Saint-Martin Johnson, Taylor, Lewis, Hide and Eddery, have at least known what it is to ride back in triumph into the winners' enclosure, but they have only managed it once.

In recent years the champion jockey, Patrick Eddery, has left his mark on the race, because in addition to winning it on Grundy he has also been placed in the times which is a fine record over only five years. This time Eddery will be on Night Before, who, like Saint-Martin Johnson, has never won the Derby wearing blinkers for 73 years.

Still on statistics, Petite Etoile won the last time to win the Coronation Cup twice and Quiet Flung, who won it last year, will be trying to emulate her when he makes his place in the line up on Thursday. And like Petite Etoile Quiet Flung will be ridden by Piggott.

His chance of doing so has been improved by the regrettable absence of both Oats and Rheffisimo, who are currently under a cloud. But the presence of the French colt, Excalibur, in the field, not to mention both Smugler and Norfolk Air, promises to make life difficult for Lester Piggott, who will be accompanied to the start

by his stable companion, Rehearsal, whose sole task is to make the pace strong from the word go. To do that he will suit Smugler and will not be against Excalibur. The complete list of four-day acceptors for the Coronation Cup is Excalibur, Hawke, Kinglet, Laomedon, Norfolk Air, Quiet Flung, Rehearsal and Smugler.

Meanwhile, at Lingfield Park today the main feature is likely to be the first appearance in public of Ian Balding's much discussed and much admired Mill Reef colt, Soldier's Point, whose rivals in the Salton Stakes include Hedingham Boy, who so nearly won his first and only race so far at Newmarket. Being by Abernethy and out of a mare by Abernethy, Hedingham Boy will be hard to catch, but Soldier's Point is preferred nevertheless.

Paris, Waterbury, who is owned by Sir Cecil de la Haye, is likely to be the first appearance in public of Ian Balding's much discussed and much admired Mill Reef colt, Soldier's Point, whose rivals in the Salton Stakes include Hedingham Boy, who so nearly won his first and only race so far at Newmarket. Being by Abernethy and out of a mare by Abernethy, Hedingham Boy will be hard to catch, but Soldier's Point is preferred nevertheless.

The group II Prix Jean de Chaudenay ended in an impressive victory for Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt's, Diagramme from Iron Duke and Tip Moss. The winner is now a likely candidate for the Grand Prix de St Cloud on July 3. Diagramme, who with Maurice Philippon in the saddle led the field, was followed by Diagramme Diagramme and Diagramme Diagramme. Diagramme, who with Maurice Philippon in the saddle led the field, was followed by Diagramme Diagramme and Diagramme Diagramme.

Iron Duke and Tip Moss made progress in the straight but were too late with their challenges.

How four education ministers found their way through the blackboard jungle

We have had four education ministers in less than four years. How will future generations judge their tenures of office? The length of their successive reigns speaks for itself: Mrs Thatcher, 1970-74; Mr Prentice, 1974-75; Mr Mulley, 1975-76; Mrs Williams, 1976. The Conservative Government of 1970 regarded education as a priority and placed the running of it in the hands of one woman, with only one change in her three-year term. This contrasts significantly with the way in which Sir Harold Wilson chopped and changed his education team to suit the balance of his Cabinet at a time when the education service had never since the war needed firm and knowledgeable leadership so badly.

The chopping and changing went on at the lower level in the junior ministerial posts, so there was no hope of any continuity. Mr Gerald Fowler, the one minister who actually knew something about education, was in and out of Elizabeth House (the headquarters of the Department of Education and Science) like a yo-yo until he was dismissed by Mr Callaghan.

By the end of 1973, when I started reporting on education for *The Times*, it was fashionable to regard Mrs Thatcher as a favourably light or at least as one as bad as all that. Three years earlier most educationists had looked on her as she rolled back the map on the bipartisan approach to comprehensive schools nurtured by Lord Boyle and the late Mr Anthony Crosland and started a hawkish reversion to supporting those authorities and parents who wanted to keep selection of pupils by ability at 11.

But the discord between grammar and comprehensive school supporters was overshadowed by the blessing of a forthright minister who could wheedle funds for education out of a reluctant Treasury. Until, at the end of 1973, Lord Barber started axing any grand designs Mrs Thatcher's team may have had for education.

Paradoxically, by doing her job well, Mrs Thatcher did education a disservice in the long run. More money for the education service almost invariably begets the need for even more money to be spent. For example, if a local authority accepts an allocation from the government to build a nursery school, it must find yet more money to staff and equip it. When in 1972 Mrs Thatcher produced a White Paper, *Framework for Expansion*, the cognomen in her department should have followed the writing on the wall, which was showing quite clearly that Britain's affluence had run completely dry and that the number of child consumers was likely to drop significantly. What was needed was a "Framework for Contraction". Working out priorities when extra funds are scarce, and there is less money for education in real terms, is far more important and necessary than working out priorities in a time of expansion.

Of the three ministers after Mrs Thatcher only Mrs Williams has grasped the nettle of actually working out ways of enforcing government priorities on local authorities. By cutting back perhaps slightly further than she needed to the numbers to be admitted to teacher training, Mrs Williams is establishing a flexible settlement which could be a stable one. By considering specific grants for the further training of teachers she could make local authorities invest in the best way of improving performance in the classroom.

In the run-up to the October 1974 election, one cannot perhaps blame Mr Prentice for not signposting the cutbacks in education pending and the new forecasts of falling school rolls. At one stroke he increased the educational budget by a tenth, but transformed the educational service overnight.

He will go down in history as the man who stopped the flight away from the teaching profession. It was his personal triumph that before the second general election the Labour Government made teachers, along with nurses, a special case for extra pay awards. It was his triumph, too, to get the campaigning Labour Party to agree to implement the recommendations of the Houghton Committee in advance of its report.

Mr Prentice must also be given credit, along with Mr Maurice Peston, his political adviser, for diverting £1m from the university budget to prime a national campaign to combat illiteracy among an estimated 2,000,000 adults. Helped nobly by the BBC's *On The Move* series, the campaign increased the number of adult students learning to read and write from 10,000 a year to 100,000, which in my view is the biggest single achievement in education since the founding of the Open University.

Mr Prentice, though, whatever moderate alignment of parties he eventually forms or joins, was not a moderate in education. He carried on vigorously with the party's leftwing drive towards the speedy abolition of the grammar schools and the phasing out of the direct grant. Like any moderate in Elizabeth House during the Labour governments, he used an immediate approach on the education flank to salve a moderate conscience on the general political battlefield.

Mr Fred Mulley, who succeeded him, did not have to worry about his party's political standing. He was an ideal party

man. He knew the ropes backstage, but before the camera he appeared arrogant, awkward, and perhaps worst of all, boring and lack-lustre. Historians should judge him better than the epithet writers who described his transfer last year from education to defence. As an utterly impossible man for education, with the great distraction of the 1976 Education Act, he did as well as anyone could have, and managed ingeniously to get some funds for education.

The perverse judgment of the Law Lords in the Tameside case has made Mr Mulley appear much more of a failure than he actually was, and has obliterated any gleam that there was from his image.

My colleague, John Ivison, a correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, told a meeting of Conservative supporters recently that it was sheer nonsense to say that 80 per cent of secondary schools were better educated in 1976 than in 1970. It was time to accept the premisses were here to stay.

I would agree, and welcome the education of the children in the turmoil. It is not so much of school that matters, as what there. Fair marks to the Prime Minister for raising the issue of what is taught in schools. No marks to him if she has not the courage to answer.

Tim

Will she, won't she, join the 100,000? I don't intend to be a wallflower, even though I have just got Mr Mulley's Education Correspondent's letter to suggest Mr Prentice as Director of the Schools Information Service. The dear schools were left out of the debate yet much of what they have been told is small change, and a small change is a small change. I believe in the future where a place in the mainstream is.

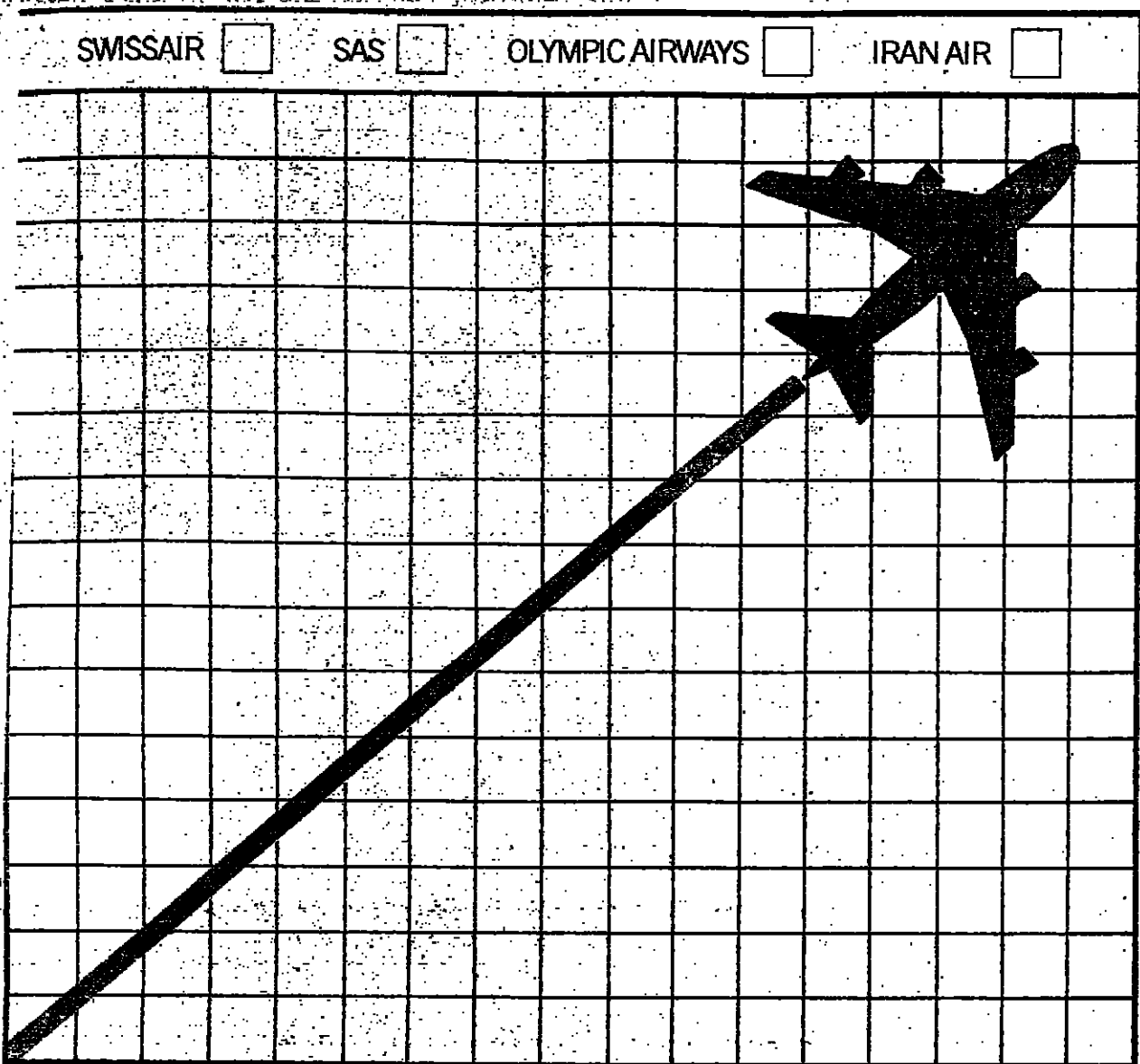
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78. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
79. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
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88. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
89. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
90. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
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92. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
93. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
94. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
95. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
96. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
97. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
98. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
99. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7
100. 00300-0	Star Dawn (C) N. Gray 4-9-7

Taunton NH programme

2.15 GLASTONBURY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: €632: 2m)	
1	2 111112 Mighty Marine (C-D) J. Brindley 4-10-0 Mr. A. Williams
2	000000 Flame King (C-D) P. Cole 10-5-0 Mr. A. Frankham
3	0 011111 Be Sharp, Jrs (C) C. Goughan 8-10-0 Mr. A. Frankham
4	000000 Be Sharp, Jrs (C) C. Goughan 8-10-0 Mr. A. Frankham
5	000000 Be Sharp, Jrs (C) C. Goughan 8-10-0 Mr. A. Frankham
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Guess which is the world's fastest growing airline?



Only one of these airlines flies to London, New York, Moscow, Peking and Tokyo. Which is it?



Only one of these airlines has the new high flying 747SP Jumbo, the most comfortable plane in the sky. Which one?

AIR CANADA ☐ AIR FRANCE ☐
AIR INDIA ☐ IRAN AIR ☐

There's only one airline in the world that will fly you to four continents in the same plane on the same day. Which is it?

QANTAS ☐ TWA ☐
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Bernard Levin

When the shouting dies down, Leyland will still have questions to answer

And now it is time that I had my own four pennorth on the Leyland affair. And the first thing I wish to say on the subject is that, despite the valiant attempts to suggest otherwise, and indeed the obvious necessity on the part of some of the suggesters to suggest it, it is the Leyland affair and not the Daily Mail affair. It is true that the Daily Mail, in this matter, has maintained with apparent effortlessness, all the charm, penetrating intelligence and faultless professional judgment that we associate with the Rothermere empire, the last word on which has recently been said by Mr Charles Wintour. It is true also that the "Checkers speech" committed to print by the Mail's editor in the grip of the very understandable emotions that must be felt by a householder who sets his savage Alsatian to bite the postman, only to find the beast turn and rear his own leg at him, must find an honoured place in any museum of emotive, and of course I cannot make, and in any case have no wish to make, any comment on the matter, now at law between Lord Ryder and Mr Varley on the one hand and the Daily Mail on the other, or between the Crown and Mr Barton. But that still leaves the quite enough room to saying a few words on the enough subject-matter to swing it over.

The nub may be put in the form of a series of questions. Did British Leyland, a firm of stable emotions that must be felt by a householder who sets his savage Alsatian to bite the postman, only to find the beast turn and rear his own leg at him, must find an honoured place in any museum of emotive, and of course I cannot make, and in any case have no wish to make, any comment on the matter, now at law between Lord Ryder and Mr Varley on the one hand and the Daily Mail on the other, or between the Crown and Mr Barton. But that still leaves the quite enough room to saying a few words on the enough subject-matter to swing it over.

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the drain of its infinitely capacious gullet, what is the Government's attitude, and that of the NEB, to the bribery allegations and what would their attitude be if these proved to be correct? What steps is the Government taking to determine, in a manner which will satisfy even those incurably sceptical people who, in their eternal shame, do not find wholehearted support in the declaration by British Leyland to the effect that British Leyland is as clean as a hound's tooth, whether those allegations are true or not?

Now in putting these questions, I have to say that they cannot be evaded by those to whom they are addressed simply switching on the sign saying "Sub judice". The civil actions under way go to the question of the integrity of Lord Ryder and Mr Varley, the criminal, to that of the conduct of Mr Barton. Whether the "lush fund" existed and must be determined independently of these matters.

The Prime Minister, who apparently grows ever more implacably determined to turn his own political character into a convincing likeness of that of his immediate predecessor, has adopted Sir Harold's most familiar course of action: when faced with an awkward question, attack the press. And so we got a display of that same parliamentary cant to which Sir Harold was so much given, the "political spite", designed to damage the Government and a nationalized industry, and therefore can be ignored.

But wherefore therefore? Let us put upon the Daily Mail's conduct the very worst possible construction: let us suppose that Mr English and Mr Barnesworth were both, when in their

A witness for the prosecution is not to be put out of court merely because he is unshaven and wearing a dirty collar

prams, knocked down by a Range-Rover, and have ever since been plotting for revenge, however unworthy. Let us, further, imagine that they are under the influence, if not, indeed, in the pay, of Wall Street, the Kremlin and the Jews. Let us go so far as to presume that Mrs Thatcher has promised them Cabinet posts in an ensuing Conservative Government if they can only bring this one down.

None of this affects my original questions in the least. A witness for the prosecution is not to be put out of court merely because he is unshaven, wearing a dirty collar and smelling powerfully of methanol spirits. No doubt in those circumstances his evidence must be rigorously tested: but it must be heard.

The Mail's allegations (I repeat that I am not referring to those in which individuals were named, but only to the general ones, supported by documents, about the alleged payment of millions in bribes) were unambiguous, extensive and very serious indeed. A considerable debate has already taken place on the ethics involved. Some have said that if bribery is necessary to secure contracts and deals abroad, and that without such bribery less scrupulous manufacturers from other countries will obtain business that might have come to Britain, then so be it: Britain must pay hush-money and justify the action in the name of the great God Exports. Others have said otherwise, declaring that such practices are abhorrent and that it is better we should perish of a collapsed balance-of-payments than stoop so low. Others again have maintained that, although this conduct is acceptable, however distasteful, where private industry is concerned, it cannot be permitted when the concern is a public one. And no doubt I cannot have read everything that has appeared on the subject—there has even been someone to maintain the opposite of that last proposition.

But all the comment has taken place in the absence of determined facts, and the Government is still dodging the only important question, which is, of course: what are the facts? From the statement hastily put out by British Leyland before they sank happily back on the cushions of sub judice—a statement in which they said they had done nothing against British law—certain deductions can readily be made. But deductions are not evidence, let alone proof. To the extent that certainty can

ever be attained in such questions, it is required here. Yet the official public search for it has not yet begun, and the Prime Minister is clearly trying to ensure that it never shall. This will not do. We are not here talking of a fivepenny slip into a salesman's hand with the suggestion that he should buy himself a couple of drinks with it. We are discussing allegations that millions upon millions of our money have been, and are to be, paid out abroad in corrupt practices, on behalf of a firm for which there is a direct national responsibility. I naturally do not know whether the allegations were soundly based or not; and for the present at least, I am refraining from expressing an opinion on the moral legitimacy of the behaviour they concern if they were.

But they have been made, in the most serious and responsible manner (whatever the nature of the other allegations made concomitantly), and apparently supported by a substantial body of documentary evidence. And the allegations and the evidence alike must now be coolly, impartially and thoroughly examined, and the responsibility for whatever has been happening, if anything has, must be determined. The matter has already gone far beyond the point at which a departmental investigation, let alone an internal one by British Leyland, can suffice. Nothing short of a Tribunal of Inquiry, armed with the full powers that such a body is equipped with, will now do. That, as it happens, was what this newspaper said editorially on the morrow of the making of the allegations. Nothing that has happened since has in any way reduced either the necessity or the urgency of such a procedure.

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Tracking the hobbit down to earth

The origin of the engagingly elusive hobbit has at last been tracked to earth. It was previously supposed that the late J. R. R. Tolkien, founder of the cult, was the nomenclator who invented the name and gave it to the world with the publication of *The Hobbit* in 1937. In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.

Professor Tolkien was consulted about the appropriate entry to put under "hobbit" in the *OED Supplement* volume two (1976). He wanted the lexicographers to put "a name invented by themselves" as the hobbits. Etymological exactitude would not quite permit them to do that. Instead they put:

In the tales of J. R. R. Tolkien, one of an imaginary people, a small variety of the human race, that gave themselves the name "hobbit" (meaning "hole-dweller") but were called by others *hobbits*, since they were half the height of normal men.

This in turn incorporated most of the fairies and spooks



J. R. R. Tolkien: the hobbit identified.

named by Regional Scot in his *Dictionary of Witchcraft* (1954). Michael Ascham Denham, a tradesman of Pierce Bridge, made his collection of tracts concerned with folklore between 1946 and 1953. These were misused in the *Journal of Folklore* and in superstitious printed in leaflets, pamphlets and local newspapers. Many of the originals are in the archive of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

They were brought to the attention of the Folklore Society, for whom Dr J. Hardy undertook the editing of a collection, which he called *The Denham Tracts*. This was published in two volumes in 1952 and 1953. The second volume (1953) contains the passage: "The whole earth was overrun

with ghouls, bogles, biers, hobgoblins." Most of this is taken directly from a recent century list. But Denham introduced a number of new types of including the "Bob Hardy, his class as a class" as a class. Where Denham found to leave it, he wrote: "the most potent magical force of the century." But true lovers of his remain, unshakably, that it must have been folk memory from Earth.

Philip H

Two years after the referendum, the same old weary battles are being fought in the Commons

Making a dog's breakfast of Community business

The supreme advantage of holding a referendum on British membership of the EEC was to be that it would settle the question once and for all. In reality, no such conclusion can be drawn from the latest report from one of the Hansard Society's unruly commissions headed by Professor David Coombes. (*The British people: their voice in Europe*. The Hansard Society for Parliamentary Government, Saxon House, 77, 30, 1, there have been some changes since the referendum result. Labour and trade union representatives do now turn up at the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Council. But throughout the report—which deals with the effects on British representative institutions in the broadest sense, including pressure groups of membership of the EEC—there is evidence of the British having less than their expected impact because much of their energies are expended on fighting the same old weary battles and revisiting the otherwise abandoned battleground.

This can be seen especially in the contrast between the behaviour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords in relation to Community affairs. If there were no other argument in favour of retaining an Upper House with many of the qualities of the present House of Lords, this single one would be enough. Both Houses receive from the Government, Community documents, not merely proposals to the Council of Ministers for detailed legislation but substantial reports as that by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, on European Union. The Lords behave like a mature chamber seriously interested in the substance of the proposals.

The papers go to a select committee, which works through six specialized sub-committees, including a law sub-committee under Lord Diplock which examines the legal implications of all proposals. They hear oral and written opinions from ministers, civil servants and private sources and, besides public hearings, they hold some consultations

in private with departmental officials, speaking in confidence and without a transcript. The result is an admirable series of reports which contribute to the discussion of the merits.

The Commons by contrast makes a real dog's breakfast of Community business. The documents are sent to the Scrutiny Committee, which, let praise fall where it is due, unquestionably works hard. Whether it would be more purposeful as an altogether different question. So terrified are the Commons of an opinion on substance being expressed in committee—because the Community itself and anything to do with it is held to be such a political hot potato—that they keep the Scrutiny Committee toiling with the utmost diligence at what, with a little experience of the kind possessed by parliamentary clerks could be described as largely a mechanical matter: that of sorting out the large numbers of documents into different piles, according to whether they raise issues that might call for debate on the floor of the House. These debates, so much contended for, are to say the least rather an anticlimax—held late at night, attended by an unrepresentative handful of MPs, and bound to last no longer than an hour and a half. One improvement of late is that the debate does at least now usually concern the subject under review, whereas for a long time it was almost entirely taken up with complaints about the procedure. Dr Coombes attributes this to "the almost neurotic concern with its loss of formal competence which has dominated the House of Commons' reaction so far."

But the problem does not rest wholly with the House of Commons. Dr Coombes's group was struck with the degree to which "the attitude of British official representatives has varied, as has their ability to adopt a constructive attitude, with the political attitude of individual ministers". Again and again in hearing evidence this point was emphasized. The referendum battle is



Referendum time: a pro-Market group show their colours.

not over. It is still being fought in Whitehall and Brussels as well as at Westminster in slightly less open guises. Divisions in the Cabinet in recent years, says the Coombes report roundly, "have made it difficult for departmental to be open with representatives of different groups and interests in their own and especially difficult to present a United Kingdom interest coherently and convincingly in Brussels".

The overriding importance in the Community of law is a matter which Coombes very appropriately stresses just immediately after the Euro-

pean Court has struck down the British subsidy to pig producers. "It would scarcely be an exaggeration," he writes, "to describe the Community at least in its manner of operating as a legal system and nothing else." It is no accident that the most supra-national of its institutions is the Court of Justice at Luxembourg. The report emphasizes this theme, stressing that as long as our membership lasts, Community law remains entrenched. They have become what amounts to a written constitution.

It was indeed an unfortunate part of the debate over the

referendum that many of these points, which are essential to an understanding of the nature of the Community, were brought out among the leading campaigners, largely by the anti-marketisers. This will doubtless enable them to say, pointing to selected passages in the report, that it proves what they have all along contended. Nor all pro-marketisers, however, adopted such a low profile and those who speak of Britain becoming a "province" in a European state will find comfort from Coombes. He is particularly trenchant in what he and his colleagues have to say about direct elections to

the European Parliament. Direct elections would not by themselves affect in any way the distribution of competences between the member states and the Community, nor would they diminish the powers of Parliament at Westminster. The transfer of competences already took place when joining the Community and Parliament's role is already circumscribed by that fact. "There is no way in which the member states' parliaments can substitute for an effective Parliament at a Community level."

That statement, one might think, would go almost without

saying were it not apparently the intention of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, with the backing of a majority though not a two-thirds majority of the party conference, to re-fight the referendum over the issue of direct elections. Fortunately the Fabian Society, which is now escaped from the state of intellectual near paralysis from which it suffered for a while on this subject, has just published a report, *Europe: a guide for the Labour Party*, by Mr Rod Northall and Mr Richard Corbett (Fabian Tract 60p). They point out the lamentable suicidal consequences of the Labour Party failing to take part in the four working parties set up by the Confederation of European Socialist Parties to prepare a common platform for the elections.

While the Labour Party makes up its mind whether it wants to fight the Labour Government and if so what are the instruments with which it can do the maximum damage to its own side and cause the most dismay among its fellow socialists in Europe, the Conservatives are actually getting their machine into order with the object of knocking Labour for its election that is supposed to take place and will unless Britain again fumbles and drops the ball—in a year's time.

Another major theme of the Coombes report is paralleled to a certain extent by a second Fabian publication, *Influencing Europe: a guide for the Labour Party*, by Roy May and Helen Hastings (Fabian Research Series, 55p). Hitherto there has been very little available about the adaptation of British membership of the Community. Those who are interested now have two complementary rather than competitive sources. What has to be remembered is that the Brussels style of operation is more open than Whitehall, and that there is more opportunity of bringing influence to bear on the pre-legislative stage of proposed measures, provided that access to persons

and information is organized.

Moreover it is no the central game plan. The Hansard report shows how all government are involved, includes as an appendix a special report on Scotland by Mr James Kinnear, who says: "Coombes do need a means of monitoring for themselves the accuracy of existing Community legislation." The Treaty of Rome brought conventional boundaries between domestic affairs and subjects the former to process unlike intergovernmental domestic. The Community unquestionably imposes new complications in lishing the definition of domestic. But members of Community brings a routine too to the accuracy of existing laws they will enjoy legal rights against government in Whitehall will be able to bring against it, says Coombes, failing to set up working parties "under community".

Indeed, the really feature of joining this time is that it with the raising of a home about all our national assumptions last paragraph of the report. Dr Coombes following remark:

Indeed in deciding to give the Parliament, it is a think of any who not give it more relation to Westminster. It is in domestic business.

Ke

The author was a member of the Hansard Society party on whose work his report was based.

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

All about the Windsors—or almost all

It was a naive question and quite rightly Audrey Whiting refused to give me a specific answer. How, I asked the court correspondent of the *Sunday Mirror*, did she get the authentic-sounding information with which she replied to hundreds of children's questions about the royal family in her paperback *Does Prince Philip Ate Your Goodnight?*

Now, for instance, did she know the true facts when, in reply to the question whether the Queen liked bubble gum, she could give the reply: "She loathes the stuff." And what was her source for the information "I think the Queen scrubs her own back with a stiff brush," when asked about the royal bath-time?

Was it speculation on her part? I asked Miss Whiting. It was knowledge, she replied. "I pressed a little," she added. "Friends of the royal family, who didn't want the replies to be a lot of old rubbish." There, I had to leave it. Professional ethics, whether be-

tween journalist and journalist, between journalist and Buckingham Palace, must be respected—or the country is done for.

The most interesting thing that Miss Whiting, a serious and respected writer, learnt from the question-and-answer exercise was that, in a potentially anti-monarchical age, children were asking very serious questions about royalty. The examples I have quoted are not wholly typical of those in the book.

Melbourne's dreary suburb of Springvale, looking to the local flora for aesthetic inspiration, has substituted "Bullocks and Sheeps" for "Ladies and Gentlemen" on a new toilet block.

Whitehall roots

In this column last week, under the heading "Whitehall looks for its roots", we attributed to Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham West, certain statements to Labour's study group on government machinery about the social origins of senior civil servants.

Mr Meacher denies having made these statements or ever

having held these views. We unapologetically withdrew the attribution and apologize to Mr Meacher.

Dual standards

Outraged of Hambleton writes to tell me that he bets the MCC will not drop Greig. Knott and Underwood from the Test team. If the Prudential game selections are anything to go by, he is right. The pink gun brigade clearly feels that chaps ought not to make money out of a game and must be punished if they seek so to do—but not punished too much.

Besides, if Greig and Co had been omitted, then the MCC fellows would have needed to ensure that Kevin Keegan was not only sacked as England's soccer captain, but also dropped from the international squad as well. And what a disaster that would have been.

Sports writers seem curiously myopic about certain things—like Greig not being English anyway (this newspaper last week). How odd that they should all overlook the fact that Keegan, by seeking to secure part of his future abroad, will be earning twenty times as much as Greig.

The 18½ minute mystery

David Frost is scarcely the most reticent of men. Great, then, was my surprise when, talking to him the other day, he casually let slip a fascinating fact about his Nixon interviews.

We have seen, as we had thought, seen the last of the inquisitorial sessions. Number four, screened on BBC television last week is to be followed by number five. In it, Mr Frost will be seen pressing Mr Nixon to explain that notorious 18½ minute gap in the White House tapes and asking why he did not burn the tapes. Less sensational, but crucially important, is the ex-President's assessment of the Salt talks. This last will provide another certain call for Henry Kissinger.

This fifth Nixon-Frost encounter was not additional to the 28½ hours the two men sat facing each other. It was part of the scheduled four interviews, but could not be slotted into them for reasons of time. Americans are likely to see the fifth interview later this year. We in Britain must wait a little longer.

Isn't you relieved your ancestor's wife simply had an affair with a Stuart King?



A sign of the times: On the shelves of a London bookshop: "Non-sexist children's books"

Packaging can damage sales

The day Raleigh introduced tobacco smoking was a red letter day in Oxford. Marlboro, Essex, PHS and all the other young bucks rushed off to Fribourg and Treyer in the high and (being no discerning for common or garden Turbuck and Pishers) Cossack Blend Number Six (with coupons) bought quantities of the company's Number One Filter de Luxe.

These cigarettes used to be packaged in handsome, but discreet, grey flip-top boxes (called Schneider boxes for some reason) and have, through the years, epitomized quality and taste.

On a recent trip to the company's emporium in the Haymarket, I found that the grey Schneider had been replaced by a dark blue and silver encasement of the sort normally associated with Ruritania Slims. Five Hundred Millimetre Tipped for the jet set executive who stubs out meers after he has smoked. Since then, many readers have written to me in dismay protesting at this monstrous new package.

Thus, to Messrs Fribourg and

Hands across the Channel

Whatever Anglo-French stresses may exist elsewhere—and I have the EEC in mind—I suppose they are in abeyance at the moment of the future of the

Entente Cordiale at in the Barbican yes contrains. It was "Brave" and hands Channel. The occasion was tuition of the 1977 awards for the pro Franco-British under

And the judges of meritable judgment the prize between woman and a French set of diplomacy. Lord Duncan-Sandys, the European Movement, opposed his French at the awards luncheon. The winners, Marion Costa, of the Society since 1941, Robert Wiedler, General of the social counterpart of the France-Grande Bre-

Post script: The mystery of the gold medal found in Sicily (PHS last week) has been solved. The initial stand for Lancashire Junior Football Association, and Albert who the team which won the local championship. When thought is of Peterson? Military men have every day after me wondering about last week about Wally field marshals. There would have been four among the boys of the school, I am told. If General Sir Peter Hunt declined the promotion on giving up his appointment at the General Staff recently. No advance, then, on three.

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FRANCE

a Special
Report

Voters desert Gaullist reality for left-wing drama

by Charles Hargrove

The French combine a weakness for political drama, with sound sense of reality. They witnessed the first in 1968, the students' barricades and the departure of General de Gaulle a year later. They demonstrated the second by the election of President Pompidou shortly after, and a little less clearly, that of President Giscard d'Estaing in 1974.

What they wanted then was continuity in change, and he seemed most qualified to provide a reassuring measure of the first, with a moderate loss of the second. Now their taste for drama seems to have got the better of their sense of reality, and they appear in a majority to want change without continuity.

In other words, a steady and inexorable tide seems to be carrying the left into power, after two decades of continuity provided by Gaullist institutions and policies, even if adjusted after 1974 to the requirements of a non-Gaullist President.

The fundamental weakness of the regime established by General de Gaulle in 1958 is that it excluded the alternation of left and right in power, as in all other democratic regimes. Because the existence of a strong Communist Party has thwarted the birth so far of a credible force on the left, capable of winning power without it, a change of majority inevitably takes on the form of a violent upheaval, of a change of society and of regime.

"Me or chaos" was how the General, and to some extent his two successors, put the alternative to the voters. This did not prevent a substantial minority of more than 40 per cent or more from choosing "chaos". But continuity was preserved—if on the last occasion, in 1974, by a hair's breadth.

With the evidence of the municipal elections in March which showed that the communists have lost its deterrent effect, the change of government, which was not regarded as one, and what is felt to be the irrelevance of its policy to the immediate requirements of the political

and social situation, a majority of voters would now choose "chaos", perhaps also by a hair's breadth. M. Giscard d'Estaing himself said in a broadcast recently that the left had an advance of four to six points.

"There is a strong desire for change", a senior official not suspected of left-wing sympathies recently told me, "and it is no longer really held in check by the fear of communists in the government." This desire springs from a variety of factors, conflicting and contradictory. The first factor is the wear and tear which affects all the men in power, irrespective of whether they belong to the Gaullist *rassemblement* or the other parties of the government coalition.

In fact, the Gaullists have suffered less from it than their allies or their rivals, within a government majority whose divisive tendencies have been exacerbated by a political evolution over which they are losing control, and for which their recipes are increasingly divergent. After a short spell of three years, the centre, made up of President Giscard d'Estaing's own Independent Republicans, the followers of M. Jean Lecanuet, and the right-wing radicals, are in far worse electoral shape than the Gaullists.

Perhaps this wear and tear would have been less serious had the regime with which they have been identified demonstrated a capacity for renewal, combined with an ability to come to terms with the impact of a world economic crisis, which hit France later than its neighbours of the West.

The voters in the centre of the political spectrum are more pragmatic and less ideologically motivated than those with firm political loyalties. Above all, they want stability and security and they control the fortunes of the existing majority.

President Giscard d'Estaing, has failed to satisfy the yearning for stability and security. In a republican monarchy, as the Fifth Republic has been accurately described, the strengths and weaknesses of the head are reflected in all its members; there are

no checks and balances, parliamentary or otherwise.

His basic proposition that France could only spare itself the upheaval of revolution by a gradual and generous process of reform; that in order to conserve essential values, one must be ready, in a country as old as France, to change the more crying injustices and inequalities, remains as valid as ever.

But he has failed in the past three years to demonstrate his ability to put this basic proposition into practice. He has deceived those who backed him as a bulwark against change; and disappointed those who had looked to him as its harbinger. Granted, it was not easy, for he owed his election in May, 1974, to the fortuitous meeting of these conflicting political aspirations; and the economic crisis created an unfavourable climate in which to transform French society.

But M. Chirac, the Gaullist leader, put his finger on the explanation for the sharp decline in the President's credibility and authority when he remarked recently that "in France, you must talk about reform; you must carry them out". M. Giscard d'Estaing, on the contrary, was convinced that it was necessary to talk about them, in order to get people to accept them. His error

was, and is, to regard Frenchmen as more reasonable than they are.

The emphasis on reform (now distinctly muted), against a background of mounting economic problems, and coupled with a concentration of power in presidential hands greater than under his two predecessors, has produced a widespread impression of irrelevance, indecision and ineffectiveness at the top. France has not been governed", M. Max Lejeune, a Centrist Deputy, exclaimed in the National Assembly recently.

The third factor of the situation which, but for a miracle, appears to be sweeping the left into power is both the cause and the consequence of the first two—the steady advance of the popularity of the left. It has reaped the benefits of the radical rejuvenation of the Socialist Party since 1971, under the leadership of M. François Mitterrand, originally an outsider; of the alliance with the Communists on a common programme of the left, since 1972, and of the far-reaching evolution of the Communist Party, since its twenty-second congress last year, and the abandonment of its more cumbersome ideological trappings, like class warfare.

Already, in May, 1974, M. Mitterrand missed the presidency by less than 1 per cent. Since then, whether in by-elections, local elections, or most recently, last March, in municipal elections, his party's progress has been spectacular. It can now claim, without exaggeration, to be the largest in the country, with about 30 per cent of the popular vote.

The Socialists, until mid-1976, seemed to be the sole beneficiaries of the union of the left; and their advance mainly to be at the Communists' expense. But more recently, as their own evolution towards greater pragmatism and flexibility began to tell, the Communists have also begun to benefit from the dynamic forces it has released. And in the municipal contests last March, even in the old political battle ground of northern France, they reaped the full fruits of the voting discipline of

socialist supporters, notoriously reticent towards them in the past.

This righting of the balance between the two main left-wing parties has removed most of the surviving communist suspicions against their allies, these remain fundamental differences, of policy, personality and outlook. But the prospect of victory on their own terms for the first time since the Popular Front of 1936 has pushed these differences into the background. They will only break out into the open under the stress and strain of power—or in the bitterness of defeat—so much so that it has been said that power would be the undoing of the union of the left.

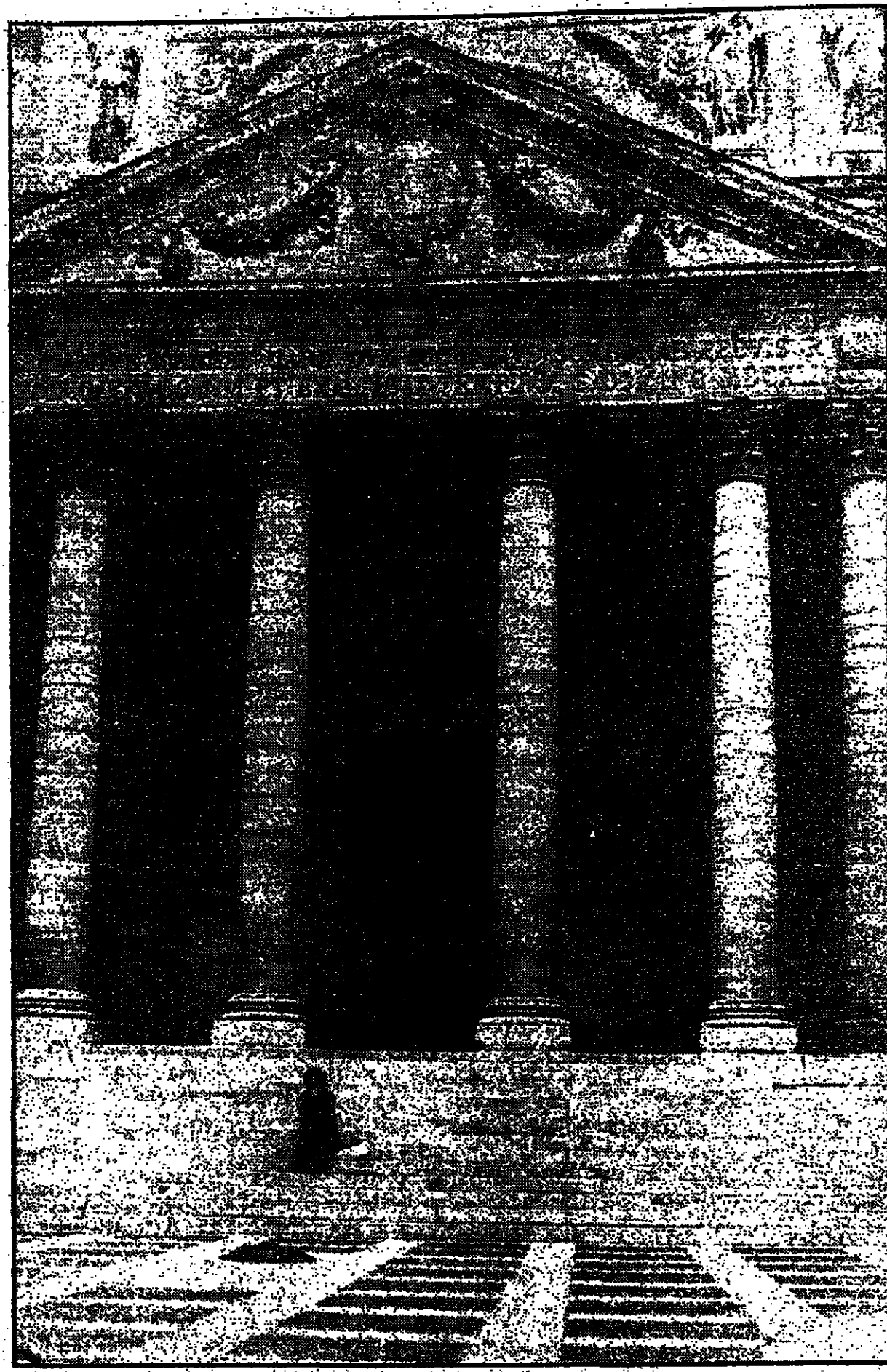
If the prospects of success consolidate the unity of the left, the spectre of defeat in the parliamentary elections of March, 1978—or sooner—accentuates the divisions of the right. But the seeds of these divisions go back to 1974, when the dominant Gaullist Party lost the presidency.

They were heightened two years later, when it lost the premiership as well, through the resignation of M. Chirac; and they came to a climax earlier this year when the Giscardians tried to stop the Gaullists from obtaining the new mayoralty of Paris by putting up M. Michel d'Ornano, one of the President's men, as the Government's candidate.

The appointment of a non-political prime minister last August for what was essentially a political task was, in the Gaullists' opinion, a grave psychological mistake of the kind M. Giscard d'Estaing has been guilty all too frequently in the past three years. M. Barre's stubborn insistence on the virtues of austerity and retrenchment, however right in themselves, was another in an electoral year. "You do not win votes by graphs and indices", a member of Parliament exclaimed in the recent debate on the Government's 12-month "action programme".

Instead of the fighting government the political emergency called for, the

continued on next page



Carlos Frias

ON OTHER PAGES

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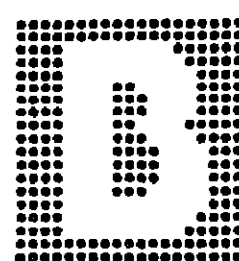
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مركزاً من راحل

Success with independence in foreign sphere

by Charles Hargrove

In *Démocratique Française*, his political testament published last October, President Giscard d'Estaing sums up the two basic principles of French foreign policy as the determination to be independent, and the practice of solidarity and co-operation.

Ever since he took office three years ago, he has been suspected both by the Gaullists and by the Communists of sacrificing the first to the second, which is obviously a much closer reflection of his own temperament.

When he came to power, he found a legacy of misunderstanding and contention with the United States, and of suspicion of the rising German power in Europe. He set about changing the style of French foreign policy in these two important respects, without altering its substance. He wished to achieve the same substitution of dialogue for confrontation, of tolerance for intransigence, that he was trying to inject into domestic politics.

It is a truism to say, now that he is near the halfway point of his seven-year term of office, that he has been far more successful in the foreign sphere than in the domestic one; and that France has broadly succeeded in maintaining its independence in world affairs without the prickly hauteur and jealous nationalism that were regarded by General de Gaulle as its essential corollaries.

In the past three years, he has learnt a great deal and lost some of his earlier illusions. His view of the world has become sharper and more sober; his affirmation of French national interests clearer, and more resolute. The erstwhile imprecise policy of benevolence towards all, and hostility towards none, which characterized the Giscardian philosophy of *mondialisme*, has given way to realism, in the words of Molière's *Misanthrope*, that to be esteemed by everyone is to be esteemed by none.

Yet, paradoxically, at home the President continues to be accused by his critics of allowing national independence to be whittled away in finance, nuclear development and defence; while, abroad, he is charged with succumbing to a bout of latter-day Gaullism, when

he intervenes singlehanded in Zaïre, or refuses to dine at No 10 with Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission.

The evolution of French foreign policy is illustrated in monetary matters and defence. The worldwide economic crisis inevitably set limits on France's ambitions to pursue its independent way as one of the leaders of the medium-sized powers, as M Giscard d'Estaing once described the country. It meant that it could have only a defensive policy in international monetary affairs and had to abandon its former rigid stand on gold fixed parity. Its position was so isolated that there was no longer any obvious political advantage in defending the one or the other.

Letist critics at home argue that France has fallen into line over nuclear proliferation too, instead of standing up for its established policy, but that is to reckon without the increased risks inherent in the technological advances of the past few years. The matter came to a head a few months ago over the delivery of a retirement plant to Pakistan. It was revived even more acutely when President Carter, soon after his inauguration, banned retransfer and enrichment plants to the United States and its allies.

But President Giscard d'Estaing, acting in concert with the British and the Germans, succeeded in persuading the American President that France, with its almost complete dependence on imported sources of energy, could not afford to forgo the advantages of these new forms of technology. At the London conference, President Carter went a long way—though just how far is still not quite clear—towards acknowledging this.

There was a strong Gaullist ring about President Giscard's proud remarks at a press conference last January after the release of Mr Abu Daoud, the Palestinian leader, that "France and its people have no lessons to be learned from Molière's *Misanthrope*, that to be esteemed by everyone is to be esteemed by none." The remarks prompted comments in the French press that the President was moving away from his former "Atlanticism" towards a "national Euro-peanism" the general would not have disowned.

Last month, over Zaïre, the French President said in a television discussion that France was acting "on its own account, and not on anyone else's." Very often, in our national debates, the wish is expressed that we should have an independent policy. Here is one.

But the charge that M Giscard d'Estaing has moved away from Gaullist principles is as untenable as the one that he has reverted to them. The fact is that, in the past three years, the world has changed; and France's place in it; and the balance of political forces within France: view of relations with the United States, President Pompidou's last foreign minister. "The United States should realize that it will never find a more understanding government in Paris than the present one," another senior official said.

French leaders have a more intelligent and healthy view of relations with the United States than was the case in the past, without in any way surrendering on principle, especially on the fact that the interests of the European Community are essentially different from theirs.

These dispositions have helped to create a friendly working relationship with the new American President and Administration. There will certainly be difficulties in the future, but the personal rapport established between the two presidents will ensure—and this is the strength of the Giscard approach—that they are never allowed to get really out of hand and to develop into real misunderstandings. This also goes for relations with Britain.

Defence is an even more sensitive issue, because the complete autonomy of the national nuclear deterrent is the touchstone of Gaullist orthodoxy; and because the left-wing opposition, uncomfortable with the Fifth Republic, has more recently come to regard it as a useful and popular stick with which to beat the Government. The President's view is that the unquestionable

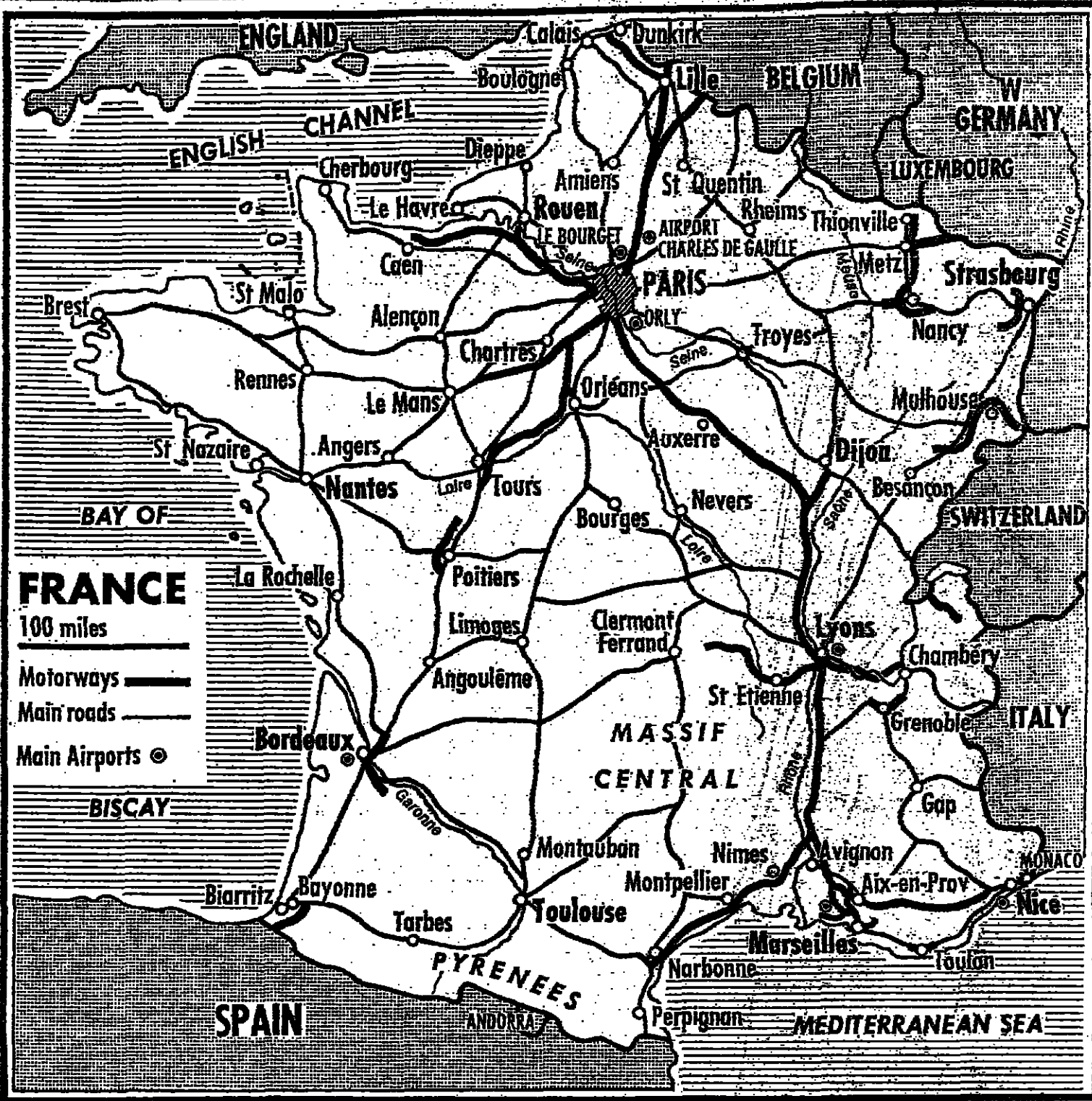
military value of the French deterrent, and its diversification—tactical, strategic, intercontinental—allow a more flexible policy than de Gaulle's "all or nothing" based on defence of the French national sanctuary.

While the idea is gaining ground that the French deterrent should make its contribution to the defence of Europe, it is not ruled out that French forces should intervene before the national sanctuary is threatened.

But there is no question, as has been suggested by the Gaullist and communist critics of the President, that they would be committed to the defence of a section of West Germany from its pacatime, or that France was edging its way backwards into Nato by surrendering freedom of decision on the use of the deterrent.

The President's "national Europeanism", his belief in this need for a stable, strong, united Europe, allied to the United States but autonomous, is not a concession to Gaullist sentiment, but springs from the genuine conviction that it is essential for the defence of a system of values, and is the best way of serving the interests of the free world.

The European Council, which sprang from his own initiative of December, 1975, is proving a reasonably effective instrument. It must be offered, in his view, by the direct election of the European Parliament. The contours of the President's foreign policy have become more precise. Its objectives are reasonable and attainable. Its execution, in spite of a few errors, such as the offer to dispatch a peacekeeping force to Lebanon last year, is coherent and consistent, with just enough chauvinism to appeal to the Gaullist streak in all Frenchmen.



Power over Paris now municipal

by Anne Singleton

When the administration of a major western capital is taken out of the hands of the central government and transferred outright to those of an elected municipality—as happened at the end of March to Paris—it may not be immediately apparent precisely how the change will affect on the one hand the city's relationship with the state, and on the other the lives of its inhabitants.

An unchanging tenet of every regime (monarchy, empire, republic) has been that Paris, an immortal hub of anti-authoritarian ideas, should be kept on a short rein held by the central government.

Formerly run by a prefect responsible to the Minister of the Interior and able to override, or refrain from consulting, the elected city council, the city has now yet completed its first three months of administration by an elected mayor leading a better than six to four majority of the 109 municipal councillors. At the same time it has retained its departmental status, like the country's 104 other departments headed by a departmental prefect who exercises the authority of the state. Passed in the last days of 1975, the law changing the city's statutes was surprisingly vague on certain aspects of the division of responsibility between prefect, city and state. In the words of one civil servant employed by the prefecture when it ran Paris, "they expected they would be bargaining among friends when it came to applying the law."

Reform that favoured main rival

President Giscard d'Estaing could not have guessed when he undertook the reform that it would turn into an instrument to put power into the hands of his main political rival within his own ranks, at that time his prime minister. M Jacques Chirac's first act, on his election as mayor, was to demonstrate his political clout by wresting from the prefect responsibility for *Assistance Publique*, which runs the capital's hospitals and allied welfare services and which had not been specifically allocated to either side.

In doing so, he increased at a blow by 35,000 the number of employees under his direct control, already amounting to 30,000. The prefect has a staff of only 500. The Prefect of Police (a function peculiar to Paris where the mayor, unlike those of other communes, is not responsible for public order) has a complement of 1,300 administrative staff and 22,000 members of the national police force. M Chirac nevertheless started as he meant to go on, by announcing that he



M Jacques Chirac, former Prime Minister, is elected the first mayor of Paris for 106 years.

regarded himself as personally responsible for the security of the population. He extracted from the Government an undertaking that he would be closely associated with future police planning. His stance on this point is symptomatic of the chief way in which the city's new status is going to make itself felt on its inhabitants.

Notably lacking under the former system was the sense of personal responsibility, on the part both of the city's administrators and of its population. The prefect's loyalties were to the Government of which he was the representative. Unable by electoral means to influence the life of their city, the inhabitants, with the exception of a few local or special interest pressure groups, had lost interest. Anyone elected as the capital's first mayor would have the reflection that this new feeling of participation is arguably stronger than it would have been had the President's man, M Michel d'Ornano, been elected.

That is true not only for the new mayor's supporters but also, paradoxically, for his opponents. The Socialists and Communists, whose 40 seats on the municipal council have not, in M Chirac's eyes, entitled them to a share in running the city, may comfort themselves with the reflection that municipal power is now at least a reality. If at present denied them, it is a legitimate ambition for the future.

The same cold comfort applies to the 20 *arrondissement* committees set up by the new law to involve the quarters more closely with the capital's administration. M de Maires, who seems bent on keeping Paris on at eight a rein as ever the Government did, has decided that their members shall be appointed, not elected. In response to the emergence during the municipal election campaign of a strong environmental current of feeling, he has, however, named one ecological, or "green", member on each committee. The same considerations will prevent him from acting

Voters desert Gaullist reality for left-wing drama

continued from previous page

to abide only by the facts however questionable the possibility of the Barre economic plan yielding in the next 10 months sufficiently concrete results to strike public opinion and reverse the trend in favour of the left; and however likely this same majority seems able or willing to overcome its divisions, one cannot regard a victory of the Communist and Socialist coalition as inevitable.

M Chirac's reaction is not to provoke a crisis, by being in the Government, but to keep himself open to the charge of having helped the left into power. But he can order his only two wings to follow him without their support in coming months for those measures came to a head in the vote of confidence on the "action programme" at the end of April. The Gaullist *rassemblement* of M Chirac, for the first time under the Fifth Republic, gave the Government strictly conditional approval and warned M Barre that in future M Chirac, as Leader of the Opposition, will prepare himself to take over when the experiment of the left has ended in chaos and disaster, at the last moment, from the beginning of its descent. But both President and Prime Minister have chosen to ignore the intentions of the majority, and the Government majority: heavy

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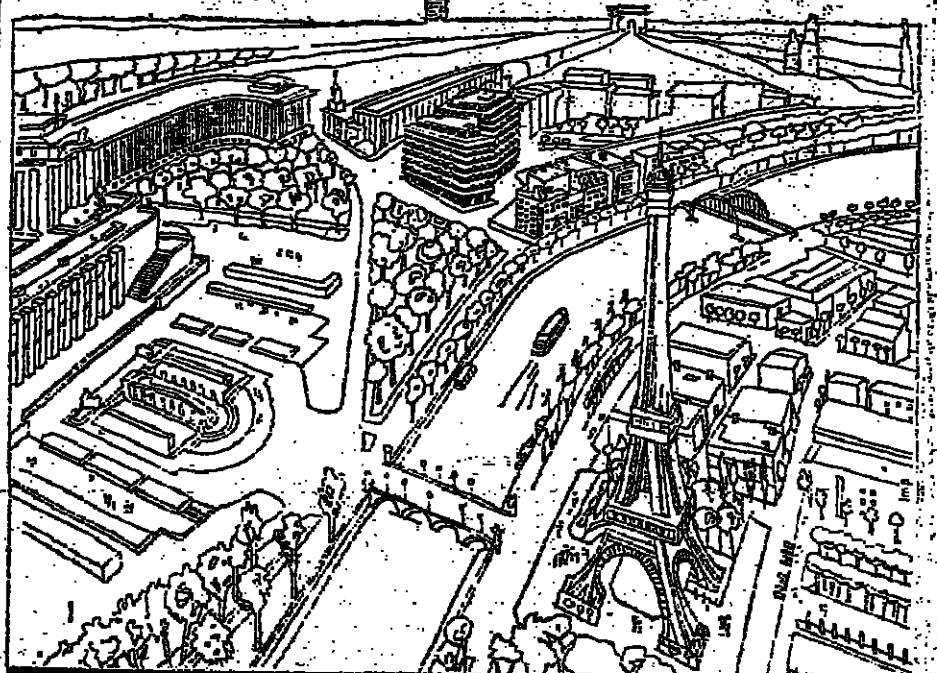
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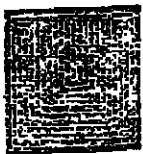
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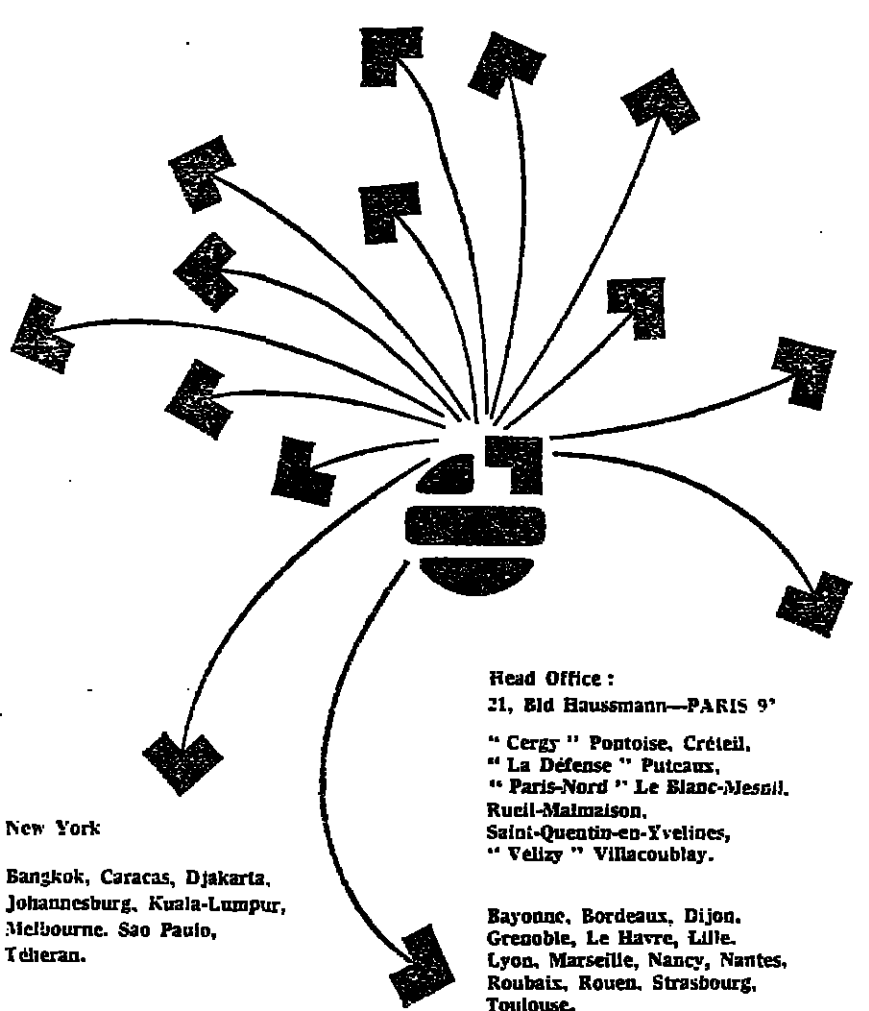
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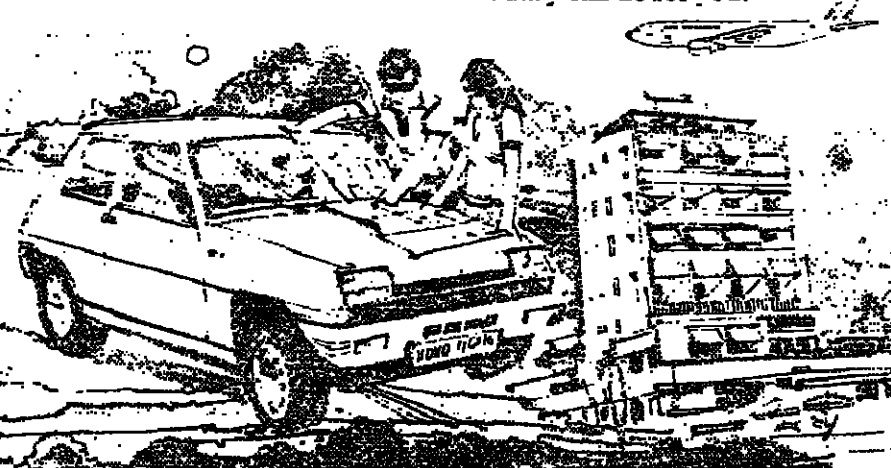
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Economy will be main battlefield

by Paul Ellman

Whatever the outcome of next March's crucial legislative elections, few deny that they will be fought out on the battlefield of the economy.

On one side, the Socialists and their Communist allies in the Union de la Gauche are hoping that the disturbingly high level of unemployment will maintain the impetus in their favour apparent in the March local elections. On the right, President Giscard d'Estaing's frayed majority is counting on the economic recovery programmes developed by M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, to save it from defeat.

Although by the standards of British economic failure France's present difficulties may appear to be the problems of too much success — it is sobering to recall that 15 years ago the British gross national product was twice that of France while today it is two-thirds — less sanguine local commentators have begun giving warnings.

One important reason for

this is, and for once the cliché has more than a ring of truth about it, that the French economy appears to have reached a crossroads, a mood reflected in the nervousness of the Paris Bourse where there has been a sharp decline in confidence and the more disquieting by the fact that sellers have not discriminated between stocks of companies which are palpably doing well and those which might legitimately be described as in difficulty.

The political uncertainties created by the prospect of a left-wing government next year have also had their effect on investment, which has been static since the middle of 1976 when the French recovery showed signs of drawing to a halt. At another level, this decline in confidence is accompanied by the traditional signs of French middle class malaise with increasing reports of Frenchmen taking steps to secure their personal savings in the vaults of Swiss banks.

M Barre has pinned his political future, and that of the majority as a whole, on measures designed to restore confidence in the economy. As befits a figure whom the majority likes to describe as France's leading economist, the measures adopted show an intellectual coherence and tough-mindedness which have been foreign to so much British policy-making. Yet, so finely tuned are they that they will require an extra element of political self-assurance if they are to convince a sceptical electorate.

The Plan Barre, as the measures announced last September have come to be known, and the Plan Barre Bis, announced in April together, constitute a precise plan which leaves little room for manoeuvre if the situation starts getting out of hand. Indeed, the Prime Minister, who likes to appeal to what he describes as the basic commonsense of the French as an adult people, has resolutely refused to be deflected from the targets he set last September.

Put baldly, the targets include restoring the trade balance if not to surplus at least to equilibrium, reducing inflation to a rate of 6.5 per cent by the end of this year, and reestablishing confidence in the franc, which

has been hovering uneasily between the cluster of strong West European currencies like the Deutsche mark and the guilder and the weak ones like the lira and the pound.

To this effect, in September M Barre imposed a three-month freeze on consumer prices and blocked public sector charges until April 1, trimmed value-added tax from its middle range of 20 per cent to 17.6 per cent and announced that wages would no longer be allowed to increase automatically with the cost of living during 1977.

The Prime Minister also imposed company and individual taxation increases and credit curbs and promised that the money supply would not be allowed to go up by more than 12.5 per cent, the expected size of the increase in gross domestic product this year in value terms.

The measures have allowed the Prime Minister to claim some modest success with inflation dropping progressively from the 12 per cent rate at the beginning of last year through the 9.5 per cent achieved at year's end to a present level of 8.5 per cent. However, with the price of oil lifted, there are signs of a new inflationary spurt and it remains at best a moot point whether France will achieve the hoped for 6.5 per cent inflation rate by the end of 1977.

A certain success has also appeared concerning the trade deficit, allowing M Barre to score a point over M François Mitterrand, Socialist leader, during their recent televised debate by announcing that the deficit for last month had dropped to less than 400m francs, a long way indeed from September's unenviable 904.000m deficit, which was part of the price paid for the summer drought.

Nevertheless, last month's figures pointed to a fall in exports, confirming that while industrial production has remained steady, exports have not been easy to find.

M Barre's short-term achievements have been obtained without an attack on some of France's underlying structural problems of labour shortage, stagnation for Economic Cooperation and Development hinted were needed when it

called for "more thorough-going reforms" in its latest report on the French economy.

One reason that M Barre cannot address himself to the restructuring of French industry is the labour-shedding drive which would involve already unemployment is running at the one million level, a figure expected to grow by at least 200,000 when this summer's leavers comes on to the job market.

The apparently intractable nature of the unemployment problem has produced an unusual "fish degree of unity" among the country's trade unions, with all three of the major groupings, the Communist CGT and the Socialist CFDT and the moderate FO, joining to stage the strike on May 24 against government policy.

At the core of the measures last month were steps to stem the growth in unemployment, including incentives to employers to hire more young workers (half the total unemployed) by exempting them from social security contributions for a year, the creation of 20,000 public sector jobs, a boost in public investment and a 5,000-franc bonus to young people who found a job abroad.

The Prime Minister also announced that talks would be held to find a formula which would encourage elderly workers to take their retirement earlier.

Overall, the Government now appears to have reconciled itself to the fact that the economy will not grow by more than the figure projected by the OECD of 3 per cent this year, compared with the 5 per cent achieved last year and the 4.6 per cent originally expected this year.

M Barre nevertheless continues to adhere to the belief that sound economic management will succeed in the end and that French voters by next spring will be able to contrast the tangible benefits of stability with the remedies offered by the left. In this he can only be helped by the closure by the Communists that they estimate the cost of pushing through the measures contained in the 1977-78 budget at 340,000m francs, much of it to be drawn from higher taxes.

Unions anxious to avoid lengthy strikes

by John Ardagh

The one-day general strike last Tuesday, led by all the main unions, was one of the biggest moments of its kind since 1968. And it was the second within a month. That shows that public feeling against the Government's austerity programme is running high; also, that the unions are strong enough to discipline and channel this discontent.

But the stoppage, like that of April 28, was carefully limited to a one-day token protest. For the unions, as the elections approach, are acutely anxious to avoid any lengthy strikes or disorders that might rebound against them electorally, as happened in 1968. This is the key to the complex and paradoxical union situation in France today.

It hardly needs repeating that French unions are basically different from British ones, being structured horizontally on political lines rather than vertically by trade. Only in rare sectors, notably education, is there one union per trade as in Britain. Elsewhere, three rival plants hold sway across the field: Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT), Force Ouvrière (FO), 700,000 members; the unions' own claims are higher.

The CGT's relations with the Communist Party (PCF) are equally complex. There is no organic link beyond the fact that most of its leaders are Communist and the two main ones, M Georges Seguy and M Henri Krieger, are on the PCF's politburo.

The union is dynamic, disciplined, and effective in pursuing workers' interests, and thus has attracted to it a high percentage of non-Communists, whom M Seguy is keen to retain. Hence his rumoured behind-the-scenes disputes with M Marchais, the veteran Communist leader.

M Seguy is said to resent PCF attempts to use the CGT as a political weapon or to over-politicize shop-floor life by to help the CGT to limit his union's appeal and alienate non-PCF members. He is thought to have won some concessions from M Marchais on this issue; but, being also a loyal Communist, once a party decision is taken he obeys it and sees that his union does so too. Thus the CGT does basically follow party policy.

The CFDT on the other hand is independent of any party, though most of its members personally are socialist. Nor does it any longer have a religious affiliation, although many leading members may be leftist Catholics.

It is much less tight-knit than the CGT and sometimes has trouble with its anarchic elements. It is also more adventurous in terms of radical social experiment: it strongly favours worker-management of factories, which the CGT views dubiously.

The two unions' inveterate hostility has quietened recently, partly under the influence of the political union of the left. There is now more frequent joint action, as last week, and the CGT, in its alliance with FO, is no longer so ready to back the Socialist Party, while the other big unions' headlands are in industry.

Regular dialogue with government

Unlike the others, FO has long believed in a regular dialogue of conciliation with government and patronal claims — fairly — that this has brought dividends. Only last month its leader, M André Bergeron, went to see M Barre, the Prime Minister, as M Seguy refuses to do. However, the Plan Barre's near wage-freeze since September has destroyed the reason for FO policy, for there is no longer scope for bargaining.

In face of growing anger at the Plan Barre, the FO has been obliged to change its tack, or risk losing support. Hence last week, for the first time in eight years, it joined in a general strike with the CGT. But it remains fiercely anti-Communist, and its ideology is reformist, not revolutionary.

Yet one paradox underlying all French unions is that they are much more militant on paper, in their manifestos and street slogans, than in daily practice on the shop-floor. Unlike the German

unions or the milder British ones, CGT and CFDT are committed to a drastic re-modelling of society and are not prepared in the meantime to "share up" a moribund capitalist system by collaborating with it.

Union leaders know well that the Government is in a mood that an all-out campaign of wage strikes against the Plan Barre, as opposed to token stoppages, could well bring quick marriage results. But the longer political effects could be fatal.

In Britain, the miners' union may have unseated Mr Heath, but the French left is haunted by the reverse. Yet, while each firm, though of course, the pattern varies greatly, daily relations between union officials and staff executives are frequently smoother than in Britain. As so often in France, a man in the moment takes up a fiery *prise de position* will then accept a reasonable under-the-counter compromise; and more than one patron has said to me: "These CGT leaders are tough but realistic; they play it fair, you know where you are with them."

A decisive factor is that only 25 per cent of French wage-earners are union members, so that in most firms there is neither the rank-and-file support nor the funding for serious strikes.

This goes some way to explain why, since the 1963 aberration, there have been so few lengthy strikes save in one or two public services. In addition there are few demarcation disputes, as there are no small autonomous craft unions to war with each other.

Hence productivity agreements have generally been more easily reached than in Britain, or French "revolutionaries" are opportunistic enough to spurn British cutting-off-moss-to-spite-tactics.

The economic crisis since 1974 has been creating a new situation, however, with many factories closing down, unemployment topping a million, and inflation and the Plan Barre eroding some living standards. This has put the unions in a dilemma: are they to sit tight, or seize the cue for action?

One tactic they have safely pursued is to stage hundreds of orderly sit-ins of factories that have closed or face closure. In several cases these have succeeded in prodding the Government into bailing out the firms.

But further than this the unions rarely go. Under present conditions, most workers have been hesitant to jeopardize their jobs by striking, or else the Government has managed to buy their acquiescence with its lavish redundancy benefits and measures against mass lay-offs.

Yet, beneath this bland

by Margot Lyon

France has adapted to change but, as a deeply traditional society, clings to its roots. In the 38,000 communes where most French people live, social life has stayed closer to Balzac than to Figaro.

Of course, the country towns have their new blocks of flats filled with consumer goods, small town streets are sprinkled with new shopfronts and even supermarkets. But the French who live in the new flats among the throwaway plastic have kept the solid sense of prudence, tenacity and family cohesion they inherited from their rural forebears.

The French family remains a tightly knit unit in a way that the British lost in the last century. Most middle class children still go on to university. It will be in the same area, and, like most young French people, they will complain if they finally have to move away to find a job.

On this stable social basis France has superimposed an impressive technological achievement, whose impact the French have so far absorbed and absorbed. Certainly the people are experiencing problems of adjustment, but only pessimists see a breakdown of society. The picture looks much more like a crisis of growth.

It was to these people that President Giscard spoke when he published his *Démocratie Française* last autumn. The book is a plea for reason and moderation, a promise of progress without upheaval, change without convulsion.

His message was that the sheer speed of contemporary life, the rapid growth of cities and of industrial firms must not exact too high a price. He wanted our quick change brought progress in education and welfare and could bring more benefit without any "dramatic rupture with the past". The scale of modern life, he said, must be kept to human dimensions and be made to serve social cohesion.

The book brought sneers from the President's political enemies but sold well throughout France. Only a few months later, however, young women, who continue in the President's popularity after marriage, all the love.

Though it is obviously their voices heard, the French have not yet decided to place the French revolution in its own history. The same has never happened. The same has never happened. The same has never happened.

None of the three, the per cent of the French vanquished social taboos baptised and the traditions circles. The past is an accepted fact is frowned on, and in small French society, especially women often cannot bring a prelate's form of abortion, which he legitimised, *projeté*. Though, and divorce, which he legitimised, *projeté*.

The links between church and state, close during the Vichy years, have ended. The religious flourish.

Some churchmen have criticised the nuclear bomb. Clergy side with workers in industrial disputes. When French protestants demonstrated against police harassment some months ago, they took refuge in the churches.

Soon after the President's book appeared, Alain Peyrefitte published *Le Mal Français*, which, unlike *Démocratie Française* is still a best seller, plays up a theme that President Giscard has never fully attacked during his years as Finance Minister and President.

The French ailment, according to M. Peyrefitte, is the authoritarian dogmatism of its centralized bureaucracy, which stifles and paralyzes all initiatives that do not come from itself. The population, he says, passively accepts this state of affairs, which justifies more dirigisme, and the people become so over-protected they suddenly leap from lethargy to insurrection.

The French are not only over-governed but badly governed, he says. The France such as Bréguère, is slow, bureaucratic, and inflexible. A recent poll French wish to show that the chief social hold on to tradition

New flats, old values



The tradition: a Roman Catholic priest in young man is far.

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That mood of pessimism might be said to affect only a small group of people who are unlikely to vote for them left anyway. Nevertheless, the historic resistance to tax increases, any government determined to make radical change faces a considerable battle on the public relations front among a people accustomed to the illusion of enjoying the right to decide what they do with their earnings.

P.E.

Motor rivals in the market place cooperate in research

by Peter Waymark

The French motor industry may not have accelerated out of the economic recession as quickly as the German but after a bad patch in 1975, last year saw a healthy revival with car production touching the three million mark and new registrations at 1,860,000, at a record level.

Whether the industry can maintain, let alone improve upon, this performance in 1977 will depend on the sort of factors that are only too familiar this side of the Channel—the incidence of strikes and absenteeism, currency fluctuations and anti-inflation measures which in France, as in Britain, have raised both petrol prices and the road tax.

But French car manufacturers do have a number of built-in strengths which have enabled it to survive the oil crisis with little dislocation and should buttress it against the economic storms of the next few years. To begin with, the cars themselves are mostly small, practical and economical, are perfectly suited to prevent motoring conditions.

Second, the French motorist appears to have a greater loyalty to the home

product than his counterpart elsewhere, particularly in Britain and Italy. Although imports have been taking a steadily bigger share of the French market, a 22.7 per cent penetration last year is modest against the British figure of 38 per cent.

The other side of the coin is that French cars are more readily available. The industry is by no means free of strikes, from which Renault, the biggest manufacturer, has probably suffered more than the rest. But production does run much nearer to target than in Britain, enabling showrooms to offer reasonable delivery.

The French manufacturers have also achieved strength through co-operation. Renault and Peugeot are rivals in the market place but this has not stopped them working together on research and development and they have shared the cost of expensive items such as engines and gearboxes. Examples are the V6 engine which powers the Peugeot 604 and Renault 30 and the small alloy unit used in the different forms, in Renault 14.

Peugeot, in turn, controls Citroën, bringing financial discipline to a company that has produced some of the most brilliant postwar cars but often hovered on the edge of bankruptcy. But for the Peugeot merger, Citroën might well have perished in the oil crisis but it ended 1976 with a 26 per cent increase in turnover and its first profit for three years.

Some might argue that Renault's position is made secure by state ownership. It is a proposition that has not been seriously tested for Renault has finished most years in profit and the state has had little need of inclination to intervene. Renault has used state money for investment but it is its own master.

The success of the company has been largely due to a shrewd appreciation of what the car buyer wants in terms of comfort and economy and a comprehensive coverage of the market. From being almost a one-model operation (with the Dauphine) in the 1950s, Renault has developed a complete range of cars. This gives it particular strength in export markets, for tastes tend to vary from country to country.

The introduction last year of the R14 small-medium hatchback brings the number of bodyskells to eight, a large number by current standards, though it is emphasized that the 14 will not replace any existing car. Renault's policy is to introduce new models to plug what it sees as gaps, while phasing out the older ones as they reach the end of their economic life.

Renault made nearly 1,400,000 cars last year and a third of the French market. It also supplied France's best-selling models, the RS and R12. But as the company needs to work to 92 per cent capacity to break even this happy position is also a precarious one and a single big strike, such as the one in 1975 which lost 100,000 vehicles, can send the balance sheet into the red.

Peugeot-Citroën together produced Renault's output in 1976 and Citroën car production, at 657,000, was only a fraction below the record level of 1973. More important was the model range. During the crisis sales of the big D series range, the principal money maker, fell off dramatically and Citroën had to fall back on the far less profitable small cars such as the 2CV and Dyane.

In 1974 the DS sold only 30,000 units but by last year its much-acclaimed successor, the CX, had more than doubled that figure and over the same period sales of the middle range GS rose from 170,000 to 330,000. Last year, too, Citroën strengthened the lower part of its range by introducing the Peugeot-bodied LN.

For years Peugeot has been a quietly successful part of the French (and European) motor industry, not as technically adventurous as Citroën or Renault but appealing to the discriminating car buyer with comfortable, high-quality cars. Last year saw record sales and important revisions, including the addition of a tailgate and a more powerful engine, to the 104. But the demise of the 404 has left a gap in the middle of the range and the aging 304 may find the going hard against the new breed of small/medium hatchbacks.

Simca, the fourth and smallest of the French manufacturers, stands a little outside the general pattern of the industry since it is owned by the American multinational, Chrysler, and has to be considered in a European, if not a transatlantic, context. It has been Chrysler's most successful outlet in Europe and its annual capacity of about 550,000 cars is at least equal to that of the second largest British producer, Ford.

The Simca range is dominated by the European Car of the Year, the 1307, known in Britain as the Chrysler Alpine. It is the most popular car in France after the Renault 5 and 12, and is likely to be joined next year by a new small front-wheel drive model which will also be built in the United States and Britain.

The author is Motoring Correspondent, The Times.

by Graham Tearse

Devolution, or rather decentralization, is a major concern of the French. The economic dependence of many regions upon Paris has inspired a growing protest, particularly and most naturally from those regions suffering from the distance between themselves and the capital.

However, the problem is by no means limited to the Breton or Corsican farmers; the major industrial centres of France, Lyons and Marseilles in the south and Lille in the north-east, lie at great distances from each other and the capital. The French communications systems, above all for commercial reasons, are in need of development. It is within the past few years that real efforts have begun.

In terms of transport, the link between Paris and the south-east is the scene of much change. The most revolutionary project is the new high-speed train that the French railway authority, the SNCF, is to put into service by 1982 between Paris and Lyons. The train, the TGV (train grande vitesse), will travel at some 160 mph and will cut journey times to Lyons, Marseilles and other towns on the southern line by about half. The south-east of France will come into easy reach of Paris by rail in times comparable to those by aircraft.

At present the line is a congested one, with the maximum number of trains (260) already running, unable to cope with the rising traffic. It is expected that 21,500,000 passengers will use the TGV in its first year, as opposed to 15,500,000 on its present service. The project, estimated to cost 3,600m francs (about £420m), has been justified by many arguments. Much play is made of its "democratic" nature; those unable to afford the aircraft will be able to enjoy a service which comes close to the same journey time. Of a total capacity of 382 seats, 274 will be second class, on the same tariff as other services.

Indeed, Air-Inter, the French internal airline, counts on losing 1,525,000 of its annual passenger total on the south-east service to its new rival.

The TGV is seen also as playing a role in decelerating the brain drain in France, and a significant stimulus for investment, particularly the Rhône-Alpes.

Transport aside, by far the largest role played in the development of the communications is that of the PTT, the French postal and telecommunications service. "France is divided in two: those waiting for a telephone, and those waiting for a car," is a much-cited slogan in France, is something of a joke.

The telephone remained, until the 1960s, a privilege of the few. In 1966, the number of private lines was three million. The recent campaign to improve the service has made some progress, bringing the figure to 8,500,000, twice that of just six years ago. It is estimated that by 1982, 19,300,000 private lines will be in service.

Now recognized as a priority, the development of the telephone is in full swing, with by far the highest growth rate in Europe. There is heavy demand, and the average national delay for a telephone is 10 months. Optimistic predictions put this figure at 15 days by 1982. On a world scale, France lies seventeenth in the general standards of its telecommunications system. It is hoped that, by the end of the year, the situation will come level to that of Italy.

But there is still a long way to go; the success rate for long distance calls is 55.4 per cent, an improvement of 1.3 per cent on last year's figures. However, the modern equipment installed is often superior to that of systems in other countries. For example, most public telephones can be used to call places as distant as Japan.

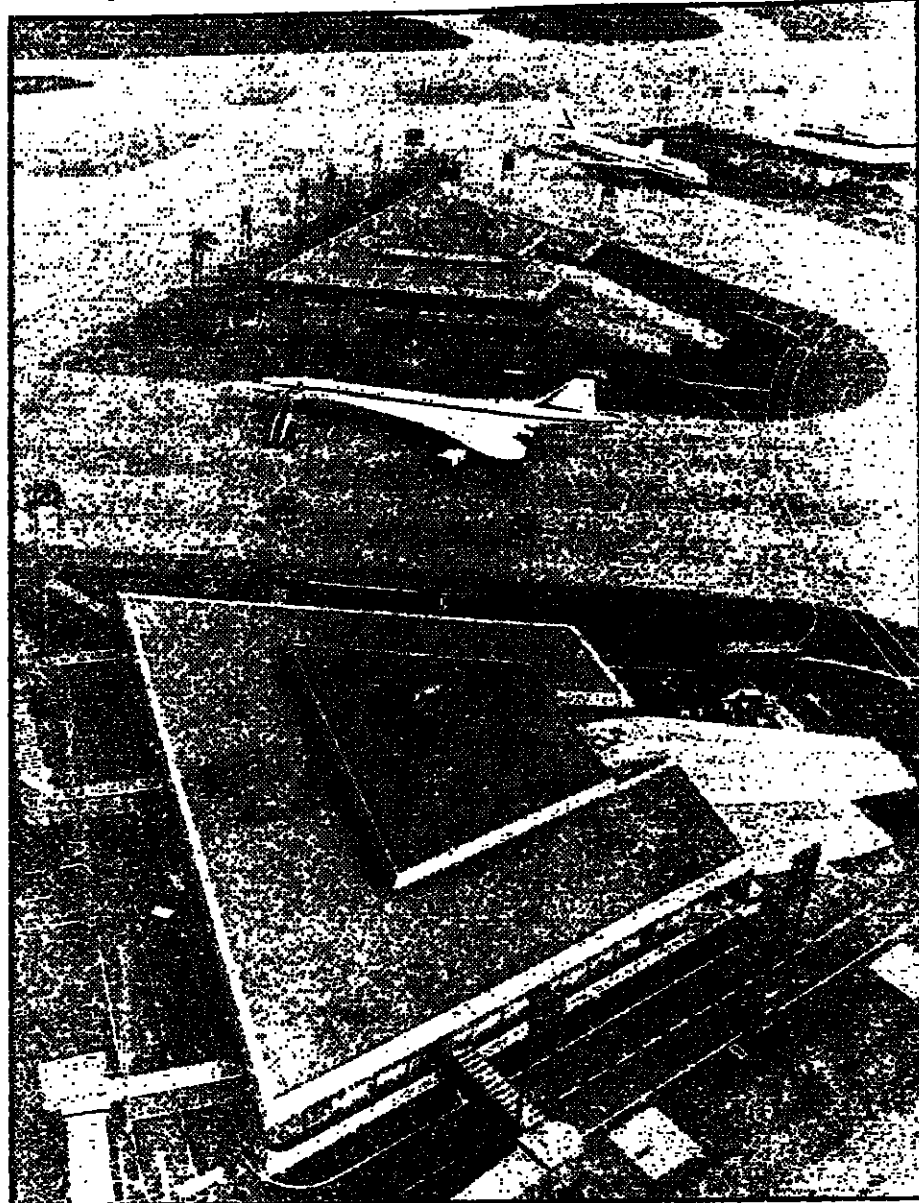
The other half of the PTT, the postal service, remains efficient. With an annual postal traffic of 12,000 million objects, 80 per cent of all letters arrive the following day; 96 per cent within two days.

The car, however, has its drawbacks in town, and an annual increase in the number of passengers using public transport has led to the introduction of new schemes. In Lyons, Marseilles and Lille, Metro lines are being built, the first two opening next year. Lyons is bringing back trams.

The increasing mobility of the French has not escaped aviation. The improvement of facilities, in particular the enlarging of airports such as Lyons and Nice, is under way. Airlines apart, however, the aviation industry is in a bad way. The recent Air France decision to replace its aging Caravelles with Boeing 737s has focused attention on the lack of investment in the civil domain.

Many of the industry's 107,000 workforce are in the hands of the final New York verdict on Concorde. With just nine of the 16 Concorde under construction having been ordered, the lack of adequate market research shows itself once more. The one current success is the European Airbus, a 270-seater with 56 buyers. Should Concorde fail to sell, the consequences for the French aviation industry will be serious.

High-speed train will halve journey times



Concorde at the modern Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris—but the aviation industry is in a bad way.

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Chemical firms confident despite poll risk

France's chemical industry is doing better than most other industrial sectors. With the 1976 turnover of 86,000m francs (£10,000m) reaching the previous record level of 1974. Production, imports and exports were all well above the 1975 level.

The industry seems quietly optimistic about its prospects and the three firms listed for nationalization under the left's common programme, Pechiney, Ugin, Kuhlmann (PUK), Roussel Uclaf, and Rhône-Poulenc, affirm that prospects for the left-wing victory next March have in no way modified their investment plans.

Some parts of the industry are facing difficulties, such as the fertilizer sector. Hard hit by the combined impact of the drop in farm incomes, resulting from last year's drought and competition from low-priced East European and American imports,

the fertilizer industry made a loss of 600m francs (£75m) in 1976, or nearly 10 per cent of its total turnover. The output of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer barely reached 1972 levels, that of combined fertilizers those of 1968.

Those developments intensified efforts by the Government to regroup the six firms responsible for production. Earlier this month it was announced that the fertilizer activities of two state-owned companies, Charbonnages de France (CDF) and Pechiney Ugin Kuhlmann (PUK), would be merged. The new unit will account for about 36 per cent of sales of nitrogen fertilizer, and 16 per cent of sales of combined fertilizers.

Efforts to regroup in the private sector have not yet succeeded. Negotiations between the GASA (jointly owned by Rhône-Poulenc and PUK) with Cofaz (jointly owned by Paribas and the Compagnie Française des Pétroles) have been broken off. Government approval for a link-up recently agreed between Cofaz and the American company, Agrico, is still pending while there are further question marks about how the two other private fertilizer producers, Gardiner (who has links with EMC) and La Grande Paroisse (a subsidiary of Air Liquide) could fit in.

Other products in the inorganic chemicals group such as caustic soda, caustic soda and sodium carbonate have, however, done much better in the past year than fertilizers.

Petrochemical production has also recovered well with the 32 per cent increase in production of 1976 contrasting with the 24 per cent drop in 1975.

The bulk of French petrochemical production is concentrated in CDF Chimie, Naphtha Chimie (jointly owned by BP and Rhône-Poulenc) and ATO Chimie (a joint venture of the two state

oil companies, Elf Aquitaine and the Compagnie Française des Pétroles).

While it is felt that President Carter's decision to raise domestic oil prices in the United States will result in less intense competition from American petrochemical producers both inside France and in export markets, there is some fear that leading American oil companies may develop large-scale petrochemical activities next to their European refineries.

The impact of higher oil prices and the revision of growth forecasts in the next few years have led to a scaling down of plans to expand French ethylene production.

The only cracker now under construction is at Dunkirk, and is the result of a 60/40 venture of the state-owned CDF Chimie and the Qatar Petroleum Company. By 1978 French ethylene capacity will reach 2,700,000 tons, sufficient to meet expected demand.

Plastics have had a good year and manufacturers see good prospects for growth, even though tough anti-fire regulations have limited its use in buildings, while increasing consumer opposition to its use in food wrappings and as drink containers have blunted previous hopes of new markets.

The two chemical giants, Rhône-Poulenc and PUK, have continued efforts to rationalize their activities. Rhône-Poulenc, which lost 941m francs in 1975 and 564m francs in 1976, has announced that its loss-making synthetic fibre activity will be wound up and that various other production units will be sold off.

Two agreements signed by Rhône-Poulenc this year were a 6,000m franc deal with the Soviet Union, whereby the company would buy Russian petrochemicals in exchange for helping to install fertilizer and insect

the postal service, remains efficient. With an annual postal traffic of 12,000 million objects, 80 per cent of all letters arrive the following day; 96 per cent within two days.

The Frenchman is, above all, an individualist, and for that the car is important. Expansion of the road network continues. France lies third in the European table of cars per head. Proportionally, it has the third highest mileage of motorway. Several projects are in operation: the motorway links of Paris-Bordeaux, Paris-Rennes and Paris-Nantes. In the east are the Reims-Calais and Paris-Troyes-Dijon schemes.

The private sector plays its part in the building, and afterwards management of many of the motorways. The toll system provides long-term returns. The marriage of the private and public sectors has so far been a successful one, allowing construction to continue on a reasonable scale despite the recent financial restrictions.

In 1975, private finance accounted for 1,119m francs of the French motorway budget. It is predicted that about 7,000 km of motorway will be in use by 1981.

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Steel may be a centre of industrial storm

by Vanya Walker-Leigh

Last Tuesday's general strike which paralyzed France may prove to be the opening shot for increased industrial strife. And France's crisis-plagued steel industry may become the leading battleground.

At the end of last year, the steel industry asked the Government for a 3,000m francs (£360m) loan just to keep going for 1977, adding that it would need a total of 24,000m francs (£2,880m) between now and 1980 to modernize plants, scrap four million tons of out-date capacity, imburse loans and increase company working capital.

With a total capacity of 34 million tons, production last year was barely 23 million tons, compared with 27 million in 1974. In 1976, imports (eight million tons) actually exceeded exports (seven million tons) contrary to the usual pattern. In terms of hours per ton the industry's productivity is lower than anywhere else in Europe—let alone Japan. Only 12.5 per cent of France's steel output is made by the continuous casting method, compared with 30 per cent for Japan.

What is more, the industry's accumulated debts stand at 33,000m francs or 104 per cent of its 1976 turnover (compared with 60 per cent for British and 16 per cent for German steel). Last year with a negative cash flow of 2,200m francs and debt service payments of 5,600m francs the industry had to borrow 2,000m francs just to keep afloat.

The steel federation blames most of all this on the Government—for imposing prices over the past 20 years far too low to permit substantial capital accumulation, thus forcing recourse to borrowing for investments, and for retarding job cuts needed to improve productivity. In addition, the impact of the recent recession, as well as increasing unsustainable competition from Japanese, Spanish and Third World steels, both on the French and the traditional export markets, has driven down sales, the federation claims.

But it now expects prices to fall between 1977 and 1980 by some 40 per cent as a result of the EEC anti-crisis measures and production to reach 28,500,000 tons in 1980. Instead of losses, the industry would make a 1,600m franc profit in 1978—assuming it gets approval for its modernization plans, involving major cuts in jobs.

No commitment to sum given as aid

Over the past 10 years, the Government has lent 7,000m francs to the steel industry. This time it will not commit itself to any figure for aid, even though it does accept the inevitability of job reductions.

But it has told industry that job cuts must be negotiated with the unions, involving a minimum of outright dismissals and a maximum of early retirements. Only when the agreement is clinched will the Government conclude financing contracts with the three firms cutting jobs and needing state aid (Saclor, Usinor, which together account for two thirds of total production and Chiers, which produces 1,400,000 tons).

The contracts will be tough. They will involve strong commitments from the holding companies, respectively Saclor and Usinor (Clif and Longwy) to pump funds into the two firms, evidence of bank credits, and pledges to invest in job creating projects in Lorraine and the north. Then, in exchange for government loans, the companies will be subject to bor-

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Summary of Balance Sheet as at December 31st, 1976 from accounts submitted to the Shareholders' Meeting, held on May 26th, 1977.

Assets	FF. '000	Liabilities	FF. '000
Due from banks, money market, treasury bills and other short-term assets	3,909,095	Deposits	7,866,396
Advances to customers	4,073,862	Liability for acceptances	330,389
Customers' acceptances	330,389	Other liabilities inc. accruals, sundry creditors	1,006,143
Other assets inc. accruals, sundry debtors	924,303	Long-term debt	100,000
Investments	378,523	Capital	171,140
Fixed assets	45,711	Reserves and retained surplus	139,748
		Net profit for the year after taxation	48,067
	9,661,883		9,661,883

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Culture money may be easier promised than found

by John Ardagh

Paris is asking: what does Count Michel d'Ornano, Minister of Culture and the Environment, since March 20, know about culture? He lacks the obvious qualifications of most recent incumbents—from the godlike Malraux to Michel Guy, enlightened aesthete, and Mme Francoise Giroud, intellectual cliquish. Indeed, there is a rumour going round the Paris salons, and quoted by *Le Canard Enchaîné*, that the count and his victorious rival for the mayoralship of Paris, M. Jacques Chirac, do have one thing in common: they are both members of a "society of haters of classical music". But M. d'Ornano was an effective Minister of Industry; and what is more,

he is an intimate friend of President Giscard. So, whether or not he can learn to love Brahms, he might not be unsuited to tackling what will clearly be his major task: in a period of budgetary austerity, to secure the extra state funds needed to save France's expensive cultural arrangements from falling into decline.

During her brief period of office last winter Mme Giroud raised the alarm signal and is said to have persuaded President Giscard into promising a large budget increase for 1978. And the Prime Minister, M. Raymond Barre, was patently shocked by the state of the Louvre on his visit in March, and said that culture would be one of the priorities in next year's budget. But, with other more demagogic priorities crowding in too, as the elections approach, it may

not prove easy to keep these promises.

The state's cultural budget for 1977, some 0.5 per cent of the total, is 1,555m francs, 13.5 per cent more than for 1976. This increase is a little above the inflation rate, but it does include one major new item: the 132m franc operational budget for the Centre Georges Pompidou, the mammoth 1,000m franc cultural complex opened in January at the Plateau Beaubourg in central Paris.

Whatever the pros and cons of its provocative draining-pipe architecture, Beaubourg—as it is called—is undoubtedly a success with the public. It is bursting at its metallic seams with 20,000 visitors a day; many simply come to gape, as at the Eiffel Tower in 1889, but many also come to make genuine use of the huge lending library, the superbly hung modern art collection, the numerous exhibitions, lectures and discussions, the exciting children's art-workshop, and the other amenities.

One inhabitant of this sleeky and over-congested part of Paris told me: "I'm not yet sure I like all those gaudy pipes. But Beaubourg really is succeeding in providing this area with a new social and cultural focus, as intended. It is re-creating the 'agora' that has been dying in our urban society". Until late each evening the wide piazza beside the centre teems with musicians, entertainers, soap-box orators, strollers, café-goers.

Splendid, but is not Beaubourg's big subsidy causing cuts elsewhere? The ministry denies it, at least as far as theatre and music are concerned. But there is evidence that funds for other museums, and for the restoring and upkeep of historical buildings, are being affected. Critics of Beaubourg point out that its modern art museum has as large a state subsidy as all the 31 other national museums together. Funds for these are not keeping pace with inflation, and because of staff cuts one third of the galleries at the Louvre and at Versailles have to be closed, in rotation.

The Louvre, plunged in semi-darkness some of the time, is in a pitiful state and plans for its modernization have been shelved, while the total state budget for new acquisitions for museums—5m francs for 1977, is only half that for the National Gallery alone. M. Emmanuel de Margerie, director of the Musées de France, said recently: "The Centre Pompidou may be a marvellous international asset for France, but the other museums must have equal treatment". And after M. Barre was shown round the Louvre in March, he admitted: "This is the richest, and yet the poorest, of any museum I know"—and promised to do something.

Another charge against the Beaubourg operation is that it is accentuating the recent trend towards cultural recentralization on Paris. In the 1960s Malraux, to his credit, made a genuine effort to decentralize, notably with his ambitious scheme for a network of *maisons de la culture*. These may not have been a total success: yet without doubt, thanks to Malraux and others, the provincial scene is far livelier than 20 years ago.

However, recent ministers, and notably M. Michel Guy (1974-76), have switched the emphasis back to trying to arrest the decline in Paris's world reputation.

"We must seize back the cultural leadership from London and New York"—that has been the unstated policy. Hence Beaubourg: hence the wooing of Bouleaux back to Paris, where he has just created a new chamber orchestra; hence the generous incentives given to world theatre leaders, such as Brook and Strehler, to work in Paris.

Hence, above all, the hiring in 1973 of M. Rolf Liebermann as administrator of the Opéra, with a brief to revive that creaking old body. Through a policy of hiring at enormous fees the top world talent, and despite serious union unrest, M. Liebermann has succeeded brilliantly, so that, surprisingly, the Palais Garnier can again hold up its head beside La Scala or Covent Garden.

In general the policy of promoting Paris elitist culture seems to have paid off. I would even dare suggest that, for a number of separate reasons, Paris is again well ahead of London as an international centre for the best music, theatre, art and cinema—and that was certainly not so 10 years ago. But what has been the price? Paris's share of the ministry's total budget is now 60 per cent, against 49 per cent in 1973. Three prestige bodies, the Opéra (138m francs), the Comédie Française (44m francs) and Beaubourg (132m francs), eat up nearly a quarter of the total working budget.

Not that the policy of helping the provinces has been given up. The 19 repertory companies with the status of national drama centres receive total subsidies of 51m francs, and under special contracts these rise by 25 per cent each year, thus proofing against inflation. Altogether the ministry aids some 200 professional drama groups, 150 of them based outside Paris.

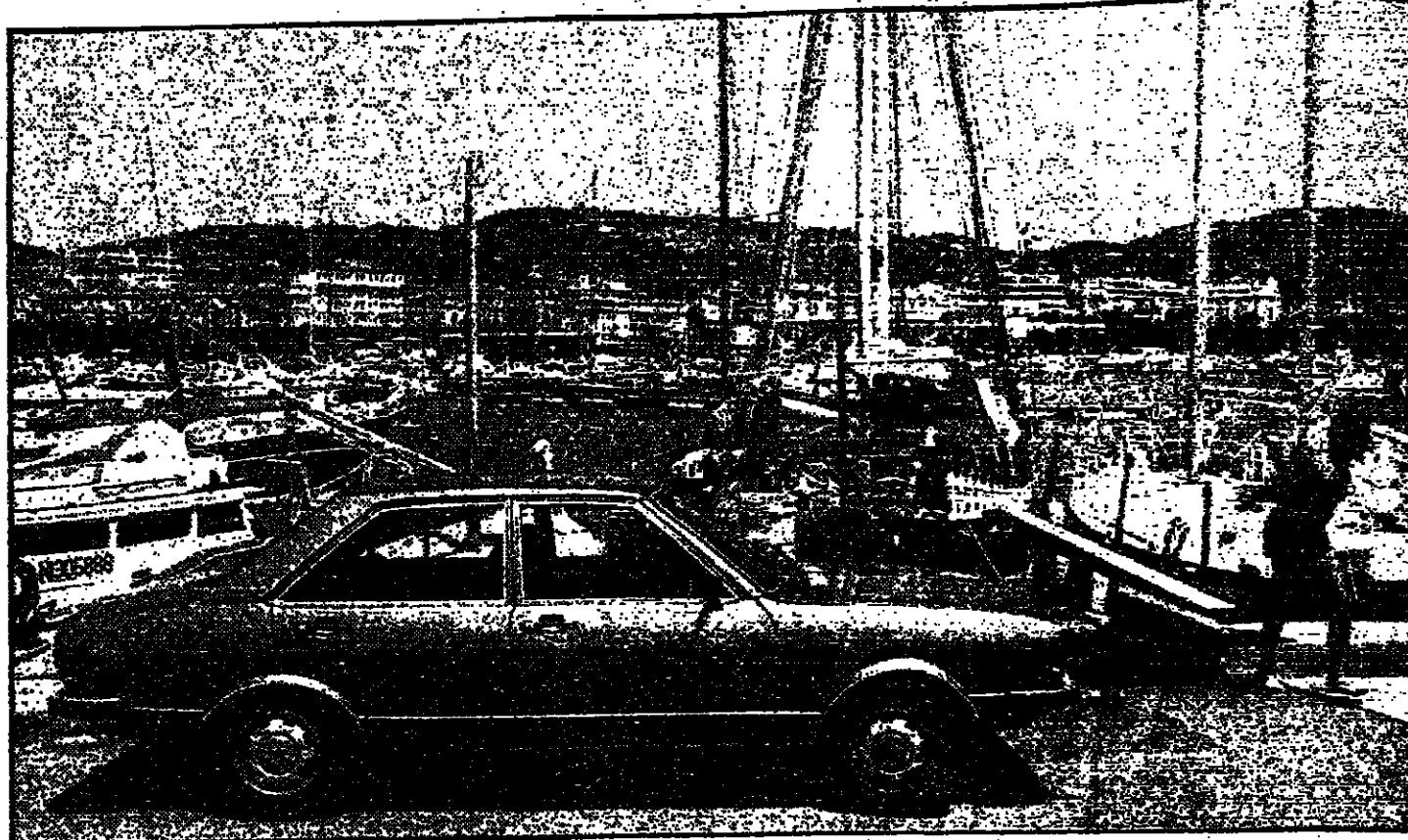
It has also been encouraging the recent remarkable revival of public interest in music. Malraux, who disliked music, once described the French as "unmusical" and did little to help this art. But since 1966 the state budget for music has risen from 11.5m francs to 212m francs; the number of annual music festivals is 140 against 43 in 1970; and seven new orchestras, most of them provincial, have been born since 1974. Concerts and operas all over France are often a sell-out.

But if in theatre and music the picture is bright, the *maisons de la culture* are still causing problems. The 10 or so great "cathedrals" built by Malraux are battling against soaring overheads and have had to cut their programmes. A few newer *maisons* are being built, of a much more modest kind, but the state is showing some reluctance to help to fund them.

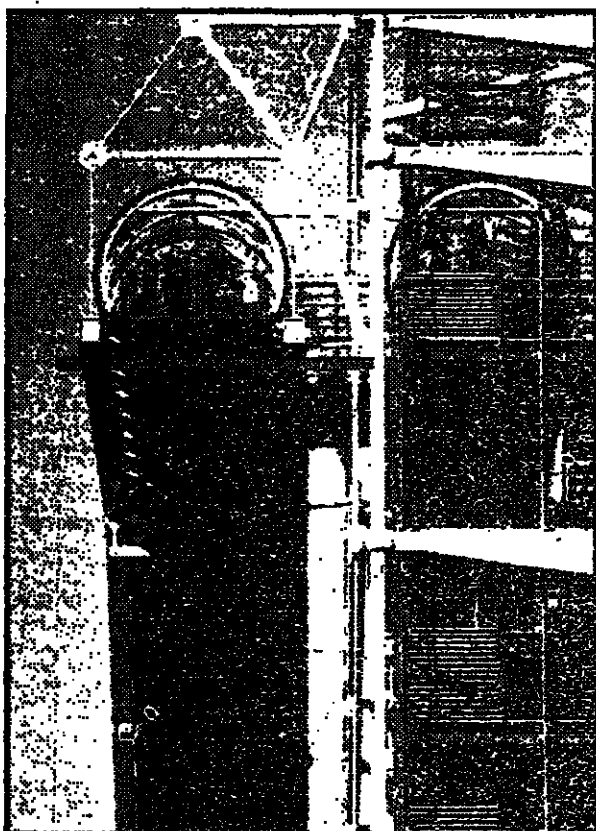
This is the situation facing M. d'Ornano, who has not yet given much hint of his policy. Will he succeed in winning the funds that the museums so badly need? Will he continue to promote Paris as one might expect, or do more for the provinces, or try to do both?

We may have little time to provide answers to these questions before being swept away by a victory of the left. If that day comes, one can be sure that most of the actors, artists and animators scattered around France will raise a great cheer. But the left will then face the challenge of how to bring *la culture* to a working class every bit as suspicious of it and alienated from it as in Britain.

The regional viewpoint



Yachts on the Côte d'Azur; demonstrating miners from Lorraine; trotting races at Vincennes; in the streets of central Lyons.



Above and top: the drainpipe architecture of the Centre Georges Pompidou in central Paris.

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Probably this makes them feel safe and secure. It ought to worry them. In the first place it reveals an attitude of extreme disdain towards the Soviet people, who must receive very clearly the message that they are not to be trusted with information about the views and activities of those who rule in their

Then there is the outside world. The policies and intentions of the Soviet Union are a matter of legitimate deep concern to everyone. To understand them properly it is necessary to understand the forces which go into their making. Yet the Soviet Union does everything within its power to deny the world this understanding. Indeed, in some respects it has closed its doors more than ever in recent years. It has, for instance, steadily reduced the amount of published biographical information on members of the ruling elite. Last year, for the first time, the yearbook of the *Large Soviet Encyclopedia* did not contain biographies of members of the Central Commit-

The problem is created by a very powerful mixture of forces—the Russian tradition (which includes not only secrecy but distrust of the people), the constitutional habits of communism, the Leninist doctrine of the party vanguard, and the entrenched interests of a ruling class which does not want the trouble and discomfort of having to account for itself. The unavoidable result, however, is that the people look upon the Soviet Government as a power which distrusts and refuse to take its statements at face value. Nobody is going to put much faith in policies or statements of intent produced by mechanisms which are largely invisible. Of course, it is not impossible that the mechanisms were gradually made visible, but there is certainly no chance whatever of diminishing it until they are.

It is the material presented by Mr. Jenkins and repeated by David Wood which is seriously misleading, mainly through omission. The principal impressions conveyed are that the cost to the British consumer of membership would in principle be adequately measured by any excess of prices we have to pay for foreign goods over the prices we supply prices on world markets; that on balance there is no such excess; that membership hasn't contributed much to inflation; because CAP products haven't risen faster in price than other products.

Our net contribution to the Farm Budget is insignificantly different from our net contribution to the Community Budget as a whole which the Public Expenditure White Paper (Comm 6721) puts at £430m implying net receipts of only £20m from other flows.

Sir, I write regarding certain remarks about me made by Charles Winour in his speech at the A. Luncheon as widely reported in the press. As to the rest of his remarks I consider that the character of his speech is self evident.

1. That he ignored the important Evening News - racecourse and service to the London community;
2. That his attitude was shameful in that it took no regard for hard-ship, tenacity of service or merit;
3. That it was commercially foolish to lose an opportunity to concentrate the best elements of two newspaper staffs;
4. That it would be dishonourable for him to do any such thing, and

That even if I was asked the question would not answer it.

I am also accused of playing with 1,700 jobs. I must point out that if the advice given in Mr Windsor's speech were followed not 1,700 but

Yours faithfully,
VERE HARMSWORTH,
New Carmelite House,
Carmelite Street, E.C4.
May 27.

Satellites for broadcasting will be in geostationary orbit, 36,000 kilometres above the equator. Powered by solar panels, they will receive signals beamed to them from their home country and rebroadcast the amplified signal back to earth. With present technology the minimum beam will be about 200 kilometres across, the maximum

In order to avoid a scramble for frequencies and satellite locations there was a gathering in January and February of all the world's broadcasting nations to parcel out the sky and the spectrum around twelve Gigahertz. The nation towns to be (San Marino), (Florence) channels and a satellite position; cautious that so wish can now go ahead. Furthermore, rigorous precautions have been taken to ensure that adjacent nations do not interfere with each other. The aim of keeping this so-called spillover to such a low level is entirely in keeping with Radio Regulation 428A, which states that "any technical measures available shall be used to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the radiation over the territory of other countries".

The Soviet Union and its allies, and France, are among the nations most happy with the arrangements, for reasons of ideological or cultural protectionism. Proponents of the doctrine of prior consent can also point to the problems that would otherwise arise concerning copyright and royalties, the dangers of propaganda and even diversity in legal constraints on television: the Irish Republic, as Mr Conor Cruise O'Brien pointedly noted, does not allow the IRA to appear on Irish Television, but if BBC can broadcast interviews and these are picked up over the water, what becomes of the state's authority?

Second, as was explicitly conceded in our article, any view of the relationship between the prices we are discussing and the prices that farmers actually receive must be based on a dubious estimate of what world prices would be for larger volumes of trade. But this applies to Mr. J. H. Thompson's estimate of the price paid by the United Kingdom to Mr. J. H. Thompson as well as to our negligible as well as to our tentative estimate that the excess was worth about £200m before the war. The only difference is that we inclined to increase this figure significantly, mainly because world markets are rarely to be kept chronically oversupplied, and only when they are do prices for exportable cereals which account for the major part of CAP support costs; the position is usefully documented in an article by Mr John Cherrington in *The Economist* of 12 November 1976.

The Post notes that CAP pro-

Finally, they asked for such attention of the existing good consumer legislation; for investigation of some irrationally high prices for some real progress with consumer education; for more freedom of information; and for it to be recognized that consumers should, eventually, be consulted on all economic decisions which affect them. They asked for more attention towards those goals within four years.

One of the 144 members of the Committee, only eight are what we would here call consumer representatives. The rest are producers, farmers, traders, small businessmen. So, it is not surprising that this very pro-consumer request was passed unanimously.

me to say whether I approved men's suits or approve now, of what he called the "arrangements" by which the Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, and certain other political journalists occasionally saw the Premier in what Mr. Haines calls a "group" from which the political correspondents of *The Times* was (Mr. Haines asserts) excluded. I neither approve nor disapprove. The visitor to No 10 to which Mr. Haines alludes (in, I think, 1966/67) was not entirely a matter of personal invitation by a telephone call from the

In any case, contrary to what Mr. Haines appears to think, I was myself *not* a member of the lobby at the time of these meetings, which were not arranged through the collective lobby machinery. One result that I suppose would follow if collective meetings of the whole lobby were wholly discontinued would be a proliferation of small informal groups arranged by invitation.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD BUTT,
200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
May 26.

Moreover, pig producers have been caught on a cost spiral

Mr Silkin's critics in the EEC say that the minor difficulties of the farmers are the direct result of his major abuse of the Common Agricultural Policy. He cannot hold down food prices by extreme manipulation of the green pound," they say, and then complain about the consequences of his manipulation. In reply to that he falls back on the argument that if the Government were to raise the support price, he would not excessively high, he argues, it would be unnecessary for him to strain the system to protect British shoppers from its impact.

Mr. Gundlach, EEC Commissioner for farming and fisheries, refuses to preclude the British Government's claim for aid authorized by the Community to replace the forbidden pig subsidy. He has said that the Commission's decision will be based on the state of pigs throughout the EEC and that he considered some British farmers' complaints about their plight "slightly exaggerated". But the very least the Commission can do when it says that the aid is an "undesirable" one is to remove any element of discrimination against British producers in the calculation of monetary compensatory amounts payable on imported pig products.

I can assure Mr. Neve that there are also "many" Army officers who now believe, with the advantage of hindsight, that intervention was an error because it gave the IRA their support in the Catholic ghettos. And, certainly today, it is the only way the supporting forces of the IRA in a way in which single measure could—and it would be irrelevant as to how selective the security forces were to be. For selectivity, like beauty, is in the eyes of the beholder.

Finally, I would suggest that Mr. Neave's speeches on terrorism are misplaced for they tend to highlight the activities of the terrorists, whether they be Catholic or Protestant, to a level of importance which they do not deserve. Of course, they have done much harm but the persistence of terrorism is not a reflection of the efficiency of the security forces, will do far more damage to the terrorists' cause than any new law or the reintroduction of internment on however selective a basis.

Your obedient servant,
EDWARD HAY,
11 Stack House,

drives one almost to despair.

Granted there has been a decline in living standards in this country, in which Mr. Christie's members and other trades unionists have shared. Granted, too, that the Government, the trade union leaders to restore, and indeed improve those standards. Granted, even (though some might disagree), that it is a proper aim of the Government to stop, and reverse that decline for everyone.

But that is not the point. In 1974, when living standards can be increased simply by increasing money wages—except perhaps for those people who get above average increases—versus on the incredible.

If he could emerge for the moment from his present stupor, and when the pound sterling appears to have some intrinsic value, there are a few things he might see.

He might see, for instance, that there are only two ways in which anyone can improve his living standards. One is to get it for it, by exploiting someone with less economic or political strength. He might see that the Government (except in so far as Mr. Callaghan and his colleagues care to make

He might see that, had the Government not abrogated the social contract, then his members' decline in living standards would have been even greater.

And he might realize that in buying a return to free collective bargaining he is perhaps making a personal tactical mistake. Granted the biggest fears from such a return would be the unemployed, the sick, the underpaid, the single parents (perhaps it would depress

a personal interest here, the passengers. But in comparing bargaining associations with the opposition, I am not talking about the miners, the electricity generating workers, the printers and broadcasting technicians, the merchant seamen, the police, and (why not?) the Army - can he be so sure that more than a few of his own (working) members are so stupid?

Mr Christie appears to be Scottish. My own Celtic ancestry lies in a different branch. But I'm sure my ancestors and his would have joined in assuring him that no matter how effective it may be, the lie told does little to increase real living standards.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CLEVERLEY,
29 London Road,
Southampton.

Among other remarks, he suggests that the Government "must reactivate the Land Fund or create a new one."

187 27.

as interesting to scholars as high policy papers, while computers

most interested to read Bernard Levin's three features last week (May 17, 18, 20). However, I feel I must join issue with Mr Levin's main point, namely, that almost all visitors to China go with critical faculties suspended and return as gullible dupes who have been shown only a stage managed charade of what the Chinese authorities would like the world to believe about their country.

On the other hand, I can speak with some expert knowledge on the medical arrangements I was able to see. Apart from the impressively organized network of the local cancer screening and prevention programme, we witnessed extraordinary efforts made to provide basic sanitation and proper water supplies in villages consisting of mud huts with straw thatched roofs. This considerable effort in public hygiene must clearly, as is claimed, have substantially reduced the mortality associated by the faecal-oral route of infection and the

contradicts the rest. we don't
 see it in The Times,
 Chiff's Longley today (May 30)
 makes a few succinct points in the
 overwhelming case for Alban as the
 patron saint of England. Why then
 the cautious headline of a
 threatened Establishment, "St
 George" quite ready to supersede
 St George?"
 Courage, Mr Editor! Such is not
 the stuff of which Albans and
 Englishmen are made.
 Yours patriotically,
 ROBERT ST ALBANS
 Abbey Gate House,
 St Albans
 Hertfordshire,
 May 30.

Both Mr Mensah's and Mr Kari-kari's lawyers filed petitions of appeal immediately after the trial in November, 1975, but even yet no date has been fixed for the appeal hearing.

ANNE M. WINSTANLEY,
NICHOLAS NUTTGENS,
ANS VAN DER HOUT,
TANA WOLLEN,
Amnesty International,
British Section,
Cambridge University Group,
49 Chesterton Road,
Cambridge.
May 25.

I have sought in this Bill to appoint trustees to administer the National Land Fund, and give them a modicum of independence from the Treasury.

The Bill is far from perfect and it is my hope that the House will agree to its going before a Select

we call for a new inquiry into modern government records—into their administration within the public Record Office, government departments and other publicly financed bodies, and into the criteria for selecting them for

The problems both of administration and scholarship are difficult, and the Council urges that an inquiry into them be launched as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
OEN HABAKKUK,
President, Royal Historical Society,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1.
May 23.

Like all other visitors I was, of course, taken to a series of shows and exhibitions, including the housing estates, and certain hospitals—and like other visitors, am quite unable to assess how typical these might be for the country as a whole. The hand was also able to visit rural areas in the Kiang tung Province where the uncertainty in question has its highest incidence in the world. I was several times taken to the border of the borderland in these parts before, and though there is no means of verifying this fact, I am inclined to believe it in view of the total absence of any of the modern facilities for Westerners and the considerable crowds who gathered both in villages and small towns to catch a glimpse of a foreigner.

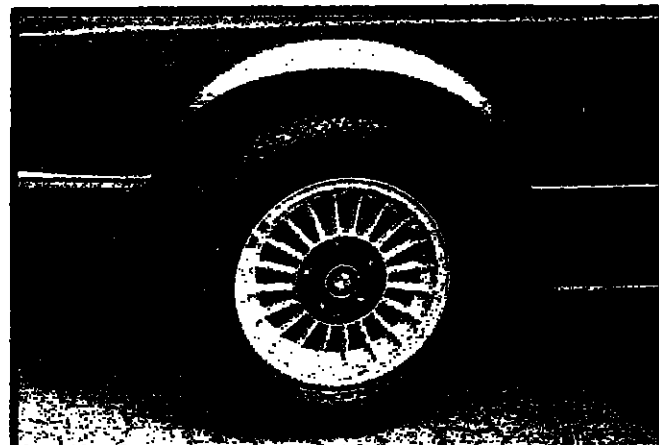
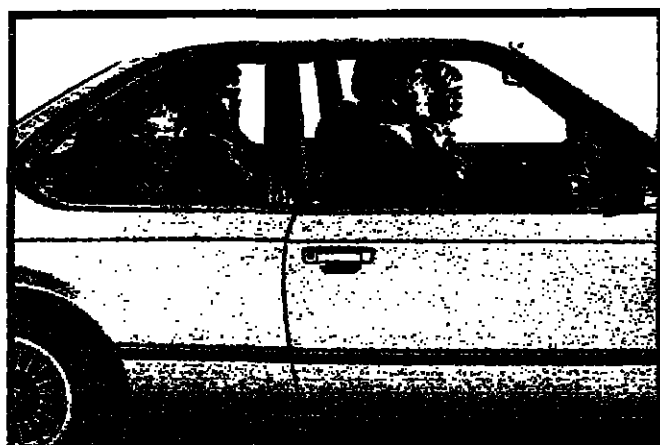
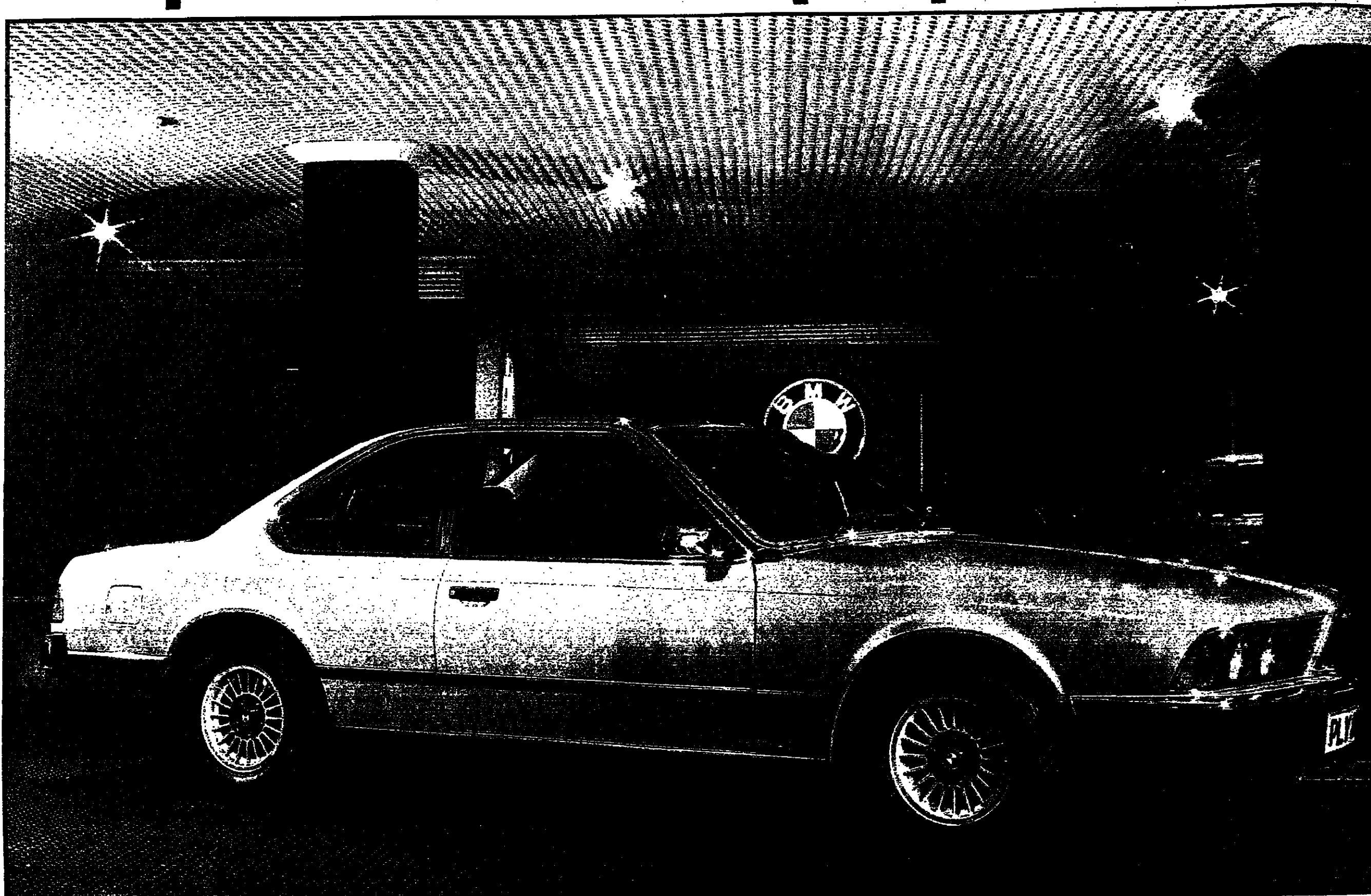
I have not had a chance yet to consult Professor Luttwak's article in the *Washington Post*, so much concerned, but from the quotations provided it would seem that his attitude to the People's Republic of China must have been just as unimpaired as his attitude towards the United States as some of the victims of whom Mr Levin complains were prejudiced in favour. From what I saw of the standard of living in the United States, I can only imagine how poor a country with a 50-year history, before liberation, of Chinese economic confusion, I can only feel that a great deal was being done to improve the situation of the population. With all this, Mr Levin does not call for the extreme depression Mr Levin postulates one

The MacKenzie's report yesterday (*The Times*, May 24) on the five Year Five prisoners has been recently produced by the Ministry of Defence Planning in Ghana. The plan seems to echo many of the points made by Mr J. H. Mensah (Prisoner of Conscience column, *The Times*, February 7, 1977) in a pamphlet he wrote in August, 1975 criticising the Government's economic record, and for which he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment without labour. Mr Mensah is an economist of international repute and has been Minister of Finance under Mr K. Busia in the previous civilian government, which was overthrown by the present military government in 1972.

the abolition of the motor motor.
What bliss to return to a peaceful
Sunday morning in the garden!
Yours faithfully,
JUDY MORRIS.
18 Alexandra Road,
Strensall,
York.
May 22

هكذا من راصل

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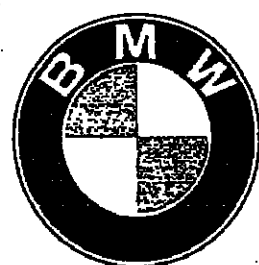
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High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price
100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00	100.00	99.50	British	100.00

هكمان النشيل

System 'more effective and less expensive to administer than price controls'

Excess profits levy urged by Co-op Union

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

A simple levy system to penalize any company making excess profits should after a year replace the price controls being introduced by the Government.

This was suggested by Mr Howard Perrow, chairman of the central executive committee of the Co-operative Union, the movement's central organization, speaking at the opening of the annual Co-op Congress in Blackpool yesterday.

The plan may be worth consideration by the Government as a scheme, introduced as part of the next Finance Bill, to follow the phasing out of grass and net profit margin controls in the middle of next year.

It might be one way of meeting any

TUC demand, if there was still some form of pay restraint, for further price controls in addition to those which would continue to be imposed by the Price Commission.

But the Co-operative Union wants to see the levy replace the entire price control structure, including the Price Commission which enters a new phase in August.

An excess profits levy would have more effect than the Commission and its new powers, and would be inexpensive to administer by comparison with the 58m estimated annual cost of the enlarged Commission, Mr Perrow said.

He added that the Co-operative Union had realized that price restraint was necessary during inflationary periods, but it did not want to see long-term control in addition to the

normal discipline of a competitive market.

If competition failed to keep prices and profits to reasonable levels then the Chancellor could act, as happened in wartime, by compelling companies which exceeded a profit norm to pay increased taxation. The profits levy idea was unsuccessfully urged on the Government during the consultative period on the new price control legislation, but the union is to continue pressing for its adoption in 1978.

Mr Perrow called for a change of attitude by the authorities towards the development of supermarkets in central areas of cities and towns. Such large stores meant lower prices to the public and could help to revitalize central areas.

The Co-op, second largest operator

of supermarkets in the United Kingdom, is anxious to expand in this sector on both in-town and out-of-town sites. In his presidential address, Mr George Gay, gave a warning that without many supermarkets and hypermarkets the Co-op's share of retail trade—now slightly more than 7 per cent—was "bound to decline".

The Co-op needed a new look in dry goods, especially women's and men's wear, and the establishment of specialist chain stores also demanded consideration, Mr Gay said.

There were still difficulties in pursuing individual Co-op retail societies of such priorities. Progress on the movement's regional plan, which aims at a major reduction in the number of individual societies, was also painfully slow, Mr Gay added.

Misconceptions over annual increments in the public services

From Mr J. Fryd

One aspect of the continuing campaign against those employed in the various public services is the oft-repeated implication that annual increments, which are part of the agreed salary scales, result in pay increases in excess of nationally accepted incomes policy percentages.

Most of the public service unions are affiliated to this federation and I believe they would all most happily surrender all incremental arrangements—provided of course that the recognized rates for the job were paid to those on the lower rungs and not the other way round!

A case in point is set out in the Fire Brigade Union's document *Assessing its Value*, published May 18, the greater part of which is a job description of the fully-qualified fireman prepared not by the FBU itself, but by the National Joint Council for the service. The FBU however adds a page giving the weekly take-home pay (ie, after tax, social security, etc.) of a fireman with a wife and two children under 11. The figures are:

On appointment £41.07.
From six months to two years £42.36.
During third year £43.59.
During fourth year £45.27.
At Qualified Fireman's Rate £48.29.

If there is anyone—Cabinet minister, parliamentarian, journalist or other trade unionist on the job description who is not satisfied that the increments are justified or believes that the qualified fireman is not entitled to the final rate for the job, I would advise him to get a copy of the job description from the FBU at Bradley House, Falmouth, High Street, London, SW6 3JN, and do a bit of thinking.

What applies to a fireman applies to teachers, local government officers, civil servants, other workers—including in manual employment—especially for performing jobs depending heavily on skill and experience acquired during their apprenticeship or on-the-job training. This is the justification for the incremental scale, and no justification at all for payment of such increments reckoned as a brake on the economy. Indeed anything to do with comes policy.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FRYD,
General Secretary,
National Federation of Professional Workers,
30a Seaton Road,
Haverhill,
Hertfordshire,
May 20.

Call for European nuclear fuel reprocessing plant programme

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Europe should embark on a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant programme urgently if demands for electricity are to be met in the next decade.

This was the view expressed yesterday by the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy amid the growing controversy over the safety aspects of nuclear power generation.

The organization stated: "European electricity producers consider it essential, and a matter of urgency, that reprocessing plant should be set up in line with requirements. This is the only way of ensuring a secure and reliable supply of fuel, under certain conditions, with the policy of non-proliferation."

It noted that present forecasts for the commissioning of reprocessing plant would result in a shortage of available capacity in Europe compared with the requirements, and this shortage

was likely to continue for a substantial part of the period 1980-90.

The organization stated that the expansion of nuclear energy production remained essential in order to ensure Europe's energy supply, and it was recognized that such development would have to comply with the legitimate requirements of environmental protection.

Its strong support for the development and expansion of nuclear energy production comes at a time when there is growing concern over the pace and safety aspects.

Next month a public inquiry will open at Windscale into the application by British Nuclear Fuels to build a 6000m reprocessing facility at Windscale.

Last week Mr Shore, the Secretary for the Environment, made it clear that the development of a large-scale nuclear programme in Britain would not go ahead until after a wide public debate on the subject.

In its statement, however, the

organization said the present situation necessitated the storage of irradiated fuel elements over a much longer period than would be the case if there were adequate reprocessing facilities. Electricity producers therefore would be required to provide their own storage facilities to ensure that normal operation of their nuclear power stations was not affected.

"This inadequacy of reprocessing capacity will result in a delay in recovering the uranium and plutonium that can be extracted from irradiated fuels. The result will be an increase in the demand for natural uranium, and consequently an increase in the cost, and in a more general way an increase in the cost of the fuel cycle," said the organization.

It continued: "An additional consequence is the delay in the entry into service of fast breeder reactors, particularly deplorable in Europe, which is relatively poor in fossil fuels and even more in uranium."

UK 'failing to act over Arab boycott'

By Ronald Embley

Leaders of three big Jewish organizations have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister calling for "effective Government action" over the Arab trade boycott and demanding legislation to protect British companies and businesses against boycott pressures.

Lord Fisher of Camden, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Mr Eric Moonman, MP, chairman of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, and Mr Fred S. Worms, honorary president of B'nai B'rith have also demanded an end to Foreign Office authentication of negative certificates of origin which state that goods sent to Arab countries, especially Iraq, do not contain Israeli components and are not of Israeli origin.

They want the Department of Trade to issue positive guidance to companies about the boycott and to stop saying that complying with it is "a matter of commercial judgment". They have also suggested a new legislative programme for countering boycott pressure on United Kingdom companies.

The Government's failure to act was "intolerable," they said at a London press conference, and condemned all trade boycotts "not internationally sanctioned".

They pointed out that America plans anti-boycott legislation, Canada has threatened to withdraw government aid from companies sup-



porting such action, and that EEC states are fighting the "commercial blackmail" in a variety of ways.

The issuing of negative certificates of origin should be outlawed and companies receiving demands to comply with the boycott should be required to report the facts to the Government. Is the retail price index an accurate guide? Must I go window-shopping once a year to revalue everything?

Index-linked household goods insurance

From Mr R. J. Valentine

I am unfortunately missed Dr Bennett's letter of April 29, but Mr Spain's reply refers to the problem of maintaining adequate insurance cover on household goods and property.

As a householder with a house containing the normal paraphernalia of family life—no antiques, valuable paintings or heirlooms—this is a problem I have wrestled with during the recent inflationary years, and to which I have found no satisfactory answer. Jewellery, antiques and other valuables can be professionally valued from time to time, but how is one to correctly estimate the replacement value of the contents of a house? Is the retail price index an accurate guide? Must I go window-shopping once a year to revalue everything?

Small companies contribute near half gross national product

From Mr Clifford V. Jackson

Nearly half the gross national product, and a significant proportion of exports and of employment, derive from companies with less than 5,000 employees.

Over a number of years as a general management consultant, and later as bank's director, I was called into many such companies which were on the verge of failing, with consequent loss of exports and of employment.

I found that many are directed by sons-of-the-father or by people who have had no experience outside their industry—often not outside their one company—and insufficient preparation for the responsibilities of the boardroom.

Over the same period I met many people in large companies, aged 35 to 45, who were highly intelligent, numerate, and well versed in economics, marketing and the principles of business.

They had not yet been director responsible for their large companies, their knowledge and skills were under-utilized. The Government should benefit the country and enlarge the perspectives of those seeking to make their better use in the major employing companies. In this way Robin Hood's Merry Men—not for Maid Marian—would be economy, and our le employment.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD V. JACKSON
20, Queen Street,
Mayfair,
London, W1X 7JY
May 11.

South Africa to revalue official gold reserves

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, May 30

South Africa is soon to revalue its official gold reserves at a price more realistic to the free market level. At present the reserves are valued at the official price of \$424 an ounce.

A Bill tabled in the Cape Town Parliament today provides for the Reserve Bank's gold holdings to be valued at a price determined from time to time by the finance minister after consultation with the bank. It will become law before parliament prorogues by the end of June.

Another big change in the South African set-up will be the ending of a statutory

requirement for the Reserve Bank to publish a statement of its liabilities and assets each Friday. In future it will do this on the last business day of every month.

The weekly figures, now published, fluctuate widely as they reflect inflows or outflows of foreign credits. Last week's Reserve Bank statement reflected a fall in total gold and foreign reserves of 15.3m (210.5m) to 752.5m, with gold holdings down by 200,000 to 236.8m, representing 38.09 per cent of the reserves.

Although the revaluation of the reserves will push up the gold content enormously, it will not reflect any change in the overall statistical picture.

Opposition to Plessey cuts fading

By R. W. Shakespeare
Northern Industrial Correspondent

Shopfloor opposition to the plans by the Plessey Group to cut its telecommunications operations with the loss of 4,000 jobs nationally, including 1,400 on Merseyside, appears to be dwindling.

With closures and cutbacks due to take effect at the end of this week, the militant action now seems to be centred on a sit-in by 250 women workers belonging to the electronics union at the Kirby factory, Liverpool, one of those due to close on Friday.

The women workers are picketing the plant where senior management are excluded. But about 50 other women workers at the factory have accepted their redundancy notices.

At the nearby Speke factory, which is also due to close at the end of this week, another sit-in seems to have failed to win shopfloor support.

The bulk of the redundancies are due to take effect at Plessey's headquarters plant at Edge Lane, Liverpool, where nearly 1,000 workers will lose their jobs under the cutback plans announced by Plessey earlier this year. Reduction orders by the Post Office for telecommunications equipment is said to be the cause of the redundancies.

Last week about 2,000 workers at the Edge Lane plant began a strike—halting the lay-off of about 1,500 others—over talks between union officials and management about the redundancy plans broke down.

A strike and sit-in at two big factories belonging to the Chloride International Battery Manufacturing Organisation is also continuing. About 3,500 workers are occupying Chloride's plant at Clifton Junction near Manchester, and another 1,500 have occupied the factory at Dagenham.

This dispute centres on the rejection by five unions of a new productivity plan.

ISTC call for selective import controls on steel

From Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent

A call for selective import controls on steel will be made at the annual delegate conference of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation opening at Scarborough today.

The resolution to be moved by the Clydebridge No 1 branch of the union, gives point to a report by Mr Bill Sims, general secretary, that the maximum number of jobs possible in steel manufacture.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is due to address the conference today and put the Government's views on the pact the steel industry should take.

represents a net loss to the United Kingdom steel industry of 5 million tonnes a year. The resolution from Clydebridge, in addition to calling for the extension of British Steel Corporation output caps for restrictions on the export of capital for industrial investment abroad and suggests that such capital should be directed into industrial investment in Britain.

Implementation of these three points is suggested is the key to retaining the maximum number of jobs possible in steel manufacture.

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Plea for simpler form of current cost accounting

By Our Financial Staff

A plea for a much-simplified form of current cost accounting that has been proposed by the Monopolies Committee has come from both the London Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

In submissions to the Inflation Accounting Steering Group, both have thrown their weight behind the proposals put forward in the exposure draft (Ed 18) on current cost accounting, but both want to see extensive modifications.

The London accountants argue that the eventual standard should deal only with current matters such as fixed assets, stocks and monetary items—they favour adjustments for monetary items in the profit and loss account—leaving other ancillary matters to be dealt with later.

The Scottish accountants suggest that current cost accounts should at first be only supplementary to historic cost accounts until confidence in the new system has been established.

Improvement in warehouse and factory leasing

For the first time in recent years there has been a reduction in the total floor area of empty factories and warehouses, available for sale or to let in England and Wales, it was disclosed yesterday.

Although the reduction in recent months is only marginal, it is seen as an indication of a general improvement and is in sharp contrast to the longer-term trend of a 145 per cent increase since November, 1974.

The industrial floor space survey—conducted by King and Company, a leading industrial estate agent—shows that 83.7 million sq ft of factories and warehouses were empty during April, against 84 million sq ft last December.

Improvement is most marked in London and the Home Counties, where the area of both empty factory and warehouse space has decreased. Elsewhere, significant decreases are confined to warehouses in the North-east and factories in the North-west, although several areas show small improvements.

Honeywell attacks NEDO report

Computer news

Honeywell Information Systems, the United Kingdom subsidiary of the Minneapolis-based computer company, has criticized the recent proposal by the computer sector working party of the National Economic Development Office that the Government's programme of preference towards ICL should be continued and extended.

This proposal (The Times, May 17) was made on behalf of a majority of members of the working party, which consists of five union members, four from industry management, three from NEDO, two from the Department of Industry and one from the National Computing Centre.

Mr Vincenzo Caputo, director of Honeywell's Hemel Hempstead systems centre and a member of the working party, yesterday dissociated himself from the working party's recommendations. They were "irrelevant to the real needs of the computer industry in the United Kingdom", he said.

Honeywell is one of a number of foreign-owned, British-based computer companies which has stressed to the working party that their presence in the United Kingdom frequently creates new opportunities for the components industry.

A relaxation of the public sector procurement policy, this group has argued, might lead to higher investment and higher employment in the United Kingdom, and should encourage the competitive edge of the indigenous manufacturers by remov-

ing them from a protected environment.

To apply the working party's recommendations, Honeywell said, would run counter to the European Community's public supply directive, and also to the working party's original objectives, set last summer.

It would involve public-sector users in extra risks and administrative costs, and would not be in the interests of the wider British computer industry.

The working party had suggested that the Government should consider extending the preference policy to the products of the United Kingdom minicomputer industry. This would be a mistake, Honeywell said. Hardware was not the central issue now, though it used to be, and becoming less important as technology moved forward.

In 1976, the company said, the United Kingdom imported £173 worth of computers for every £700 exported. But Honeywell's figure was £100 worth of imports for every £100 worth of exports.

The Government's ICL preference, the working party had said, did not cover the whole of the public sector. True in theory, Honeywell commented, but in practice the company had declined an extension of the competitive edge of the indigenous manufacturers by remov-

representatives who rejected their proposal to halt coil shipments.

Mr Tommy Hilton, the Swansea dockers' leader, said: "They wanted us to boycott the coil imports for Valdeira and Trostre, but we told them that at this point of time we were not prepared to do it. It would put our own jobs in jeopardy."

The dockers argued that if supplies to the textile works were to dry up, then so would the textile exports back through the docks.

Swansea dockers yesterday rejected a request by Port Talbot steelworkers to "black" imported steel coil. The British Steel Corporation is importing the coil to keep imports of two tonnage units—Trostre, Llanelli, and Velindre. Swansea—which normally relies on Port Talbot steel.

Leaders of the 560 striking electricians yesterday picketed the docks as part of a campaign to step up their nine-week-old dispute over pay differentials. They then met dockers' representatives who rejected their proposal to halt coil shipments.

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Dockers refuse 'blacking'

From Mr G. M. Beresford Hartwell

Sir, In a recent news item, you suggested that a fully nationalized water supply industry was necessary, if a national water grid were to be developed. It is worth the suggestion is incorrect.

Britain has a good record in the development of schemes for bulk transfer of water. Many of these schemes require cooperation between separate organizations. Many indeed were conceived and executed before the establishment of the present water authorities. Successful technical and financial cooperation between water companies, water boards and water undertakings was the rule, rather than the exception, and remains so under the new order.

The objections to a national water grid are technical rather than political. Certainly, there are areas where bulk supplies are brought from afar; there are areas where additional bulk supplies would relieve local shortages. The transport of water, however, is a very large part of its cost. In this respect, water differs from the supply of electricity, gas or oil, each of which is a commodity of high value, whose transport costs are a small part of the whole. A water grid would be expensive to build, because enormous quantities of pipeline would have to be laid and numbers of large pumping stations would have to be built. It would be expensive to energy (and, hence, running cost) whereas it is to be spent on improving the country's water supply, which is already very good, I submit that it should be spent on the development of new sources and on such specific bulk supply schemes as offer a real advantage to the consumer.

One is tempted to speculate whether the suggestion of a

Objections to nationalizing water supplies technical not political

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were significantly different from unity.

Instead of specifying model in one of the distal forms common to metric work in this Tarling and Wilkinson the rather peculiar assumption that the logarithm of current price level infinite weighted average logarithm of current and equilibrium price level their actual estimate procedure, however, the arbitrary truncation of the series to three, to five lags—presumably of data limitations.

This procedure ignores the impact before the third, fourth and fifth in each regression not surprisingly, the series do not seem to be nearer to unity the sun coefficients of these lags.

If any inference drawn from this type of estimated from such samples of observations, think it supports Professor man's argument rather than of Tarling and W. C. L. F. ATTFIELD, School of Economic and Studies, University of East Ang, Norwich NR4 7JY.

home charm

Blue Road, New Southgate, London N11 2NA

Trading profit before taxation £1,016,411

Year	Trading profit before taxation
1972	263,651
1973	275,127
1974	667,381
1975	908,528
1976	908,528

- * Pre-tax profits exceed £1m for the first time
- * Dividend of 3.245p (maximum permitted) covered 3.2 times
- * £1.3m invested in new stores for future growth
- * Retail selling area up 31% to 493,000 sq ft

Sales for the first quarter of 1977 have increased by 23% as compared with the corresponding period 1976. This is at a time when the volume of retail sales in the UK has fallen to the lowest level for any quarter since early summer 1972.

With indications that retail sales have improved before the year-end, and with further store openings planned for the next few months, it is anticipated that sales for 1977 will show a healthy increase over 1976.

Every effort is being made to restrict overheads and, accordingly, subject to unforeseen circumstances, we look forward to another year of continued growth in profits.

Manny Fagel,
Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Company Secretary

TEXAS HOMEWARES

TRAVIS & ARNOLD LTD

LIMITED

Distributors of timber, building material heating and plumbing equipment to the construction and allied trades.

Extracts from the Chairman's report for the year to December 31st 1976:

Profits before tax were at the record level of £4,232.1 sales of £43 million and this is partly due to the 'turn of the year' in the inflationary spiral caused mainly by the deterioration of the value of sterling against the currency in which we trade. I still feel that we can be satisfied our underlying level of efficiency and performance.

Earnings per share amount to 23.5p for the 12 months period ending 14.8p for the 10 months to December 1976. Net tangible assets have increased during the year from 138p to 158p per share.

I feel in considering future prospects that our position is similar to that of a year ago. After recently reaching unprecedented high levels, interest rates have fallen and are lower than for several years and despite strong competition for funds the Building Societies are to have an encouraging increase in their net receipt if this is sustained we can once again hope for an improvement in the private sector by the end of the year. Meanwhile we have to cope with a lower volume level 1977 and the doubts over a settled economic climate which might once again force the government to rig monetary policy.

E. R. Tr

For a copy of the Report and Accounts write to The Secretary, Travis & Arnold Ltd, St. James Road, Northampton NN1 1JY.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Surprise tactics from the Bank

else one may say about the Bank of England, it can never be accused of surprise. So, on the gilt market the better part to establish a market in the new stock, the Bank then promptly 100m novelty in what it doubtless be a proper perspective and a new £800m stock of a more national nature.

at least in the sense that the Bank has a fixed interest coupon, neither the partly-paid mechanism regarded as established practice another matter.

cker's surprise at the Bank's timing quite simply on the fact that the market has been in retreat. The market, appears to be that the is this a convenient moment both to start to commit institutions late summer funding lest the free atmosphere is by then proving a confidence.

the pricing of the stock suggests authorities may not in fact be all about how much stock they sell there are already £780m of out-gilt calls before mid-July. The is whether or not they are running, selling too much stock in the immediate, since the first two calls could to a further £240m out of the early July.

and Samuel Montagu; the three leading Swiss banks, the Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corporation and the Swiss Credit Bank; several United States institutions; and probably the Bank of Oman, which pops up occasionally.

IMF auctions themselves are no longer a disruptive force in the market. They have become a part of the way of life in gold, particularly since the monthly auction offerings of 525,000 ounces succeeded the fact that certificates of independence were given by the certification officer in circumstances where administrative secretaries and clerical assistants were employed and the services of an independent consultant and negotiator were retained on a paid basis by the association.

The object of seeking recognition is to enhance bargaining status on pay and other conditions of work. It is the stuff and essence of the good ordering of industrial relations. It conduces to stability. It also raises inevitable conflicts.

This is certainly so where a recognition dispute is in effect a rivalry struggle between two unions, or between two or more groups in the same union.

The recognition of a staff association raises special problems as under existing law it is a rivalry struggle between two unions, or between two or more groups in the same union.

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780,000 ounces for sale in the first series when the auctions were held about every six weeks.

During the past three months, the bullion price has been consolidating above the \$140 level, with a high point of \$153.60 an ounce reached at a London fixing in March; and while there has been weakness recently, the fundamentals for gold are strong.

Jewelry and other industrial demand has been buoyant, but has tailed off somewhat since the latest bull phase started last September. It is generally held that the jewelry industry took in large quantities below \$120 an ounce.

Meanwhile, Krugerrands have gone out of fashion—overseas sales in the first quarter of this year were 497,000 coins, compared with 818,000 in the same period last year—although the international premium has risen slightly this year.

But since gold has such a politico-economic role, its position could change overnight. The Cuban presence in Ethiopia is being watched closely, for example, as is the banking crisis in the United Arab Emirates.

So, if the world economic and political situation stays calm during the summer, bullion is likely to trade quietly, with \$135-\$138 an ounce as the low point. But if \$150 an ounce can be breached with confidence there could be a run up to \$165, though at the risk of attracting more than passing attention from the United States Treasury and the Russians.

actions

ng the stakes

IMF

rules for tomorrow's ninth International Monetary Fund gold auction—the the new monthly series—may have factor which has contributed to the eagerness in the bullion price. For, if the \$50,000 deposit demanded at auctions, intending bidders will be put up \$25,000, or \$10 an ounce, or is the greater.

in the gold market have considered a \$50,000 deposit to be less when such high stakes are. So the requirement of \$1m for a ounce bid, for instance, is more show the integrity and backing of er.

nger has always been that speculation try to play the auction price off he market.

certainly not going to change the of real professionals, however—the big four, including N. M. Rothschild

s don't help investment trusts

x months of intermittent takeovers, n the investment trust sector are iding at an average discount to their value of around 30 per cent. It the want of a follow-through that e failed to make more headway, for ven been plenty of bid approaches—he scenes.

have so few of them come to ? Well, not necessarily because enched conservatism within the Investors in investment trusts the would-be bidder with a problem consideration.

investment trust share registers y contain a fair number of names ave been there for any number of nd the implication is that a bid in ous up formidable tax liabilities on gains. Pension funds, however, are ise to bid in anything else.

ere are problems, too, for quoted es like the assurance groups which e paper to bid. After seeing the value of the Prudential's bid for l slide with the shares until it by next to nothing, the cash offer the British Rail Pension Funds, a d now has to have a cash alternative n serious attention.

ver, the structure of the industry—f cross-holdings—means that in most bidder will have to obtain at the ard acquiescence if he is to have any of success.

omplexities of those cross holdings strayed by the case of London & n, whose directors last week l their readiness to question whether t interests of shareholders were

The recognition of staff associations has attracted attention in the columns of *The Times*. In reply to criticism by the National Union of Bank Employees of the grant of certificates of independence to staff associations of two building societies Mr Keeble, the chairman of Nationwide Building Society Staff Association, and Mr Owen, the chairman of the Leek and Westbourne Staff Association, wrote a joint letter which was published on March 19.

They drew attention to the fact that certificates of independence were given by the certification officer in circumstances where administrative secretaries and clerical assistants were employed and the services of an independent consultant and negotiator were retained on a paid basis by the association.

The object of seeking recognition is to enhance bargaining status on pay and other conditions of work. It is the stuff and essence of the good ordering of industrial relations. It conduces to stability. It also raises inevitable conflicts.

This is certainly so where a recognition dispute is in effect a rivalry struggle between two unions, or between two or more groups in the same union.

The recognition of a staff association raises special problems as under existing law it is a rivalry struggle between two unions, or between two or more groups in the same union.

Only an "independent" trade union may refer a recognition issue to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service under section 11 of the Employment Protection Act 1975 (implemented February, 1976)

Is it time to overhaul the law on trade union recognition?

"If a staff association which is not independent is composed of members who do not wish to join any union, why should they have to form or join an independent trade union to seek recognition and enhance their bargaining status?"

for conciliation and a report with recommendations. Section 29 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 defines an independent trade union as a trade union which

"(a) is not under the domination or control of an employer or a group of employers or of one or more employers' associations; and (b) is not liable to interference by an employer or any such group or association (arising out of the provision of financial or material support or by any other means whatsoever) tending towards such control."

In Blue Circle Staff Association v Certification Officer [1977] ICR 234, which was the first appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal from a decision of a certification officer who refused to grant a certificate of independence under section 8 of the Employment Protection Act 1975, it was held that his refusal to grant the certificate was justified.

The association, it was further held, had not yet attained the freedom from domination which it had been pursuing.

The original consociative organization had been penetrated at every point by the interference and control of the management. There was a heavy onus on such a body to show that it had shaken off the paternal control which brought it into existence and fostered

its growth and which finally joined in drafting the very rules by which the control appeared to be relaxed.

The decision of the Certification Officer appears to have been correct in the building society cases to which reference has been made. The decision of the Certification Officer as affirmed by the tribunal was clearly correct in the Blue Circle case.

It is, however, worth seeking to examine the principle involved. If a staff association which is not independent is composed of members who do not wish to join any union, why should they have to form or join an independent trade union to seek recognition and enhance their bargaining status?

Why should the law impose this fetter on their freedom of action?

Can it be that certain sections of trade union opinion do not wish it to be this way? If so—is this attitude justified?

It is thought not. The Donovan Commission in paragraph 766 suggested that a possible basis for the definition of a trade union was any combination of employees the principal activity of which was the regulation of relations between employees and employers, and that an independent tribunal should be established to which

recognition disputes might be referred by the Minister of State.

These findings more or less adopted the situation under the Trades Dispute Act of 1906 as reflected by *Citrine's "Complete Modern Definition of Trade Union"* as set out at page 343 of *Trade Union Law* (third edition). There was no concept of "independence" as a prerequisite to recognition.

This was first imported by the Act of 1971. However, the Labour Government's appraisal of the report of the Royal Commission which was set out in its *Place of Strife* and later in the Industrial Relations Bill presented by Mrs Barbara Castle, and supported by among others Mr Crossman and Mr Wedgwood Benn, contained no such concept. The definition of trade union in Clause 1 of the Bill followed the traditional pattern.

There was no statutory or common law machinery concerned with recognition as such before the Act of 1971. Under the Act of 1971 the Commission on Industrial Relations could not recommend recognition—hence the National Industrial Relations Court could not order recognition—unless the organization of workers was independent in the sense that it was not under the domination

or control of the employer [see sections 4(4)(a) and 167].

This is reflected in the definition of "independent trade union" in section 30 of the Act of 1971, but the second limb of section 30 goes further and requires that the trade union shall not be liable to interference by an employer by any means whatever tending towards such control.

Surely the essential point must always be the will of the majority of the members of the staff? This can be ascertained from time to time by the taking of an independent ballot.

Under paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Act of 1975 ACAS is to be subject to direction by any minister and is enjoined to perform its functions on behalf of the Crown.

Under section 2 of the Act of 1975 ACAS is empowered to act "ex officio" in the case of an apprehended trade dispute—which of course includes a recognition dispute.

It is all too apparent that the views of staff associations may be canvassed by independent ballot arranged by ACAS should the need arise.

Is it not high time that this artificial concept of "independence" as a pre-requisite for recognition should be discarded? If a man or woman is free to join, or not to join, a trade union; if freedom of choice has any meaning; if treaty obligations, for example under the European convention on Human Rights, are intended to have any effect in domestic law, then the answer is plain.

This is not the only aspect of the recognition machinery in need of a 10,000-mile service—or, indeed, the only aspect of the law on industrial relations due for a general overhaul.

Alan Campbell, QC

Eric Wigham

Where Japanese and western attitudes to work converge

A report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, based on the visit of a study group to Japan, suggests that industrial relations and worker attitudes in this country are tending gradually to become more like those of the West.

The group consisted of a dozen employer and trade union representatives from European countries, with a Japanese rapporteur, Mr Oliver Clarke, principal administrator of the OECD affairs and industrial relations division. Coming from countries themselves undergoing changes in their labour relations, the group sought to assess a quite different system.

It could be described, perhaps, as a sort of cross between the paternalism not infrequently to be found among European firms a generation or two ago and a kind of consensus decision-making which has some parallels with present trends in Europe.

The essence of it is what has been called "lifetime employment." Boys and young men leaving school or university start work in an enterprise where they will remain until they retire when they are 55 to 60 years old. As the years pass, their pay and status increase regularly, whether or not their job in the company changes.

If an employee is required to do a different type of work, the firm trains him for it. He has a wide variety of fringe benefits and the company's interest in him extends beyond the factory.

His union is based on the enterprise in which he works and on bargains about general

movements in pay and conditions which are on a pattern set by negotiations between national employers and the union federations normally in this country known as the "spring labour offensive." Time lost through strikes is less than in most countries though more than in, for instance, West Germany or Sweden.

At the heart of the report says "the Japanese enterprise is a body of people who feel that by willingly giving it their best efforts, by giving more weight to their responsibilities than to what is due to them, they are ensuring their own security and prosperity and contributing to the good of their country as a whole."

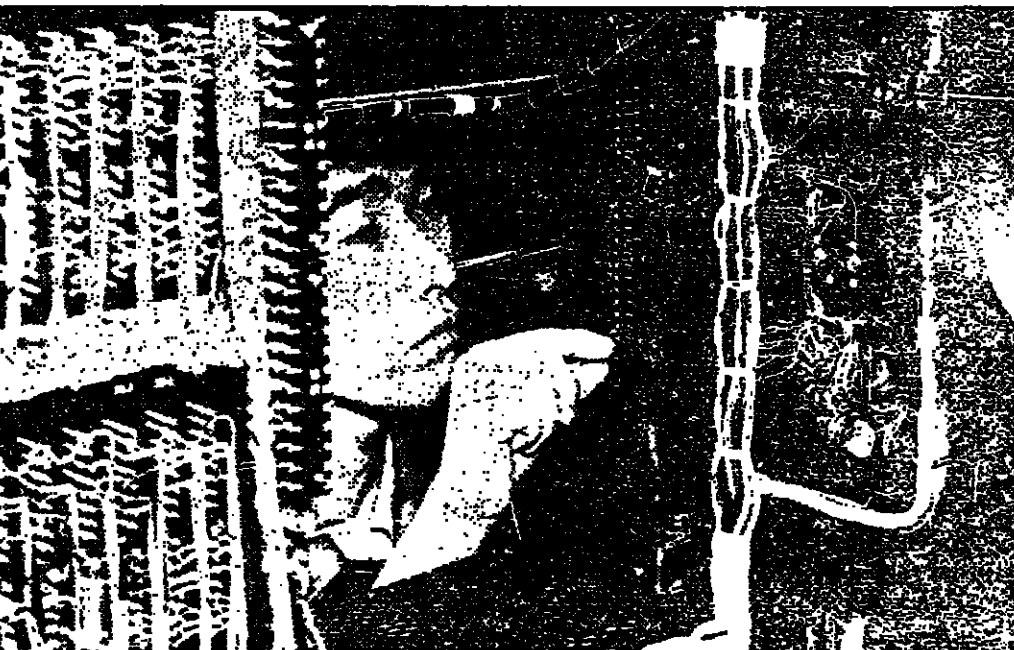
Workers, the report continues, are ready to do any work within their capacity. This is no need to oppose technical change since it is unlikely to have adverse effects on either security or pay.

Devotion to the work community is traditionally regarded as an important virtue in Japan and may be stronger than devotion to the immediate family.

But it is not all like that. Lifetime employment is normal in large concerns, but less general in small ones, in which wages are on average much lower.

There are "temporary" workers, with no comparable security, and "half-way" workers, who move to a different employer in the course of their careers, and women who break their continuity of employment for family reasons.

However, the Japanese workers who retire earlier than in other countries, with a lump sum to tide them over until they get the state pension



A computer under assembly at a Tokyo factory: a European study group detected a falling-off in the traditional devotion to work and the company among the Japanese young.

at 60, some 30 per cent continue in temporary work at lower pay in the same or another undertaking.

There are also disadvantages. All goes well in periods of expansion, such as has been normal since the war, but the recent recession led to the acceptance by an increasing number of Japanese employers of western criticisms that lifetime employment could lead to overmanning and rigidity.

The study group found other, varied signs of change. A growing number of young workers would like to be able to change their jobs without the sacrifice of seniority pay which it at present entails. The seniority wage has also declined.

A survey showed that whereas in 1958 workers aged 40 to 49 got two and a third times as much as those aged 20 to 24, in 1974 they got only 71 per cent more.

There are less tangible changes in attitude. The group found a tendency to lay more emphasis on environmental and social improvements and less exclusive concentration on economic growth. They also

detected a falling-off, among the young, in the traditional devotion to work and the enterprise.

As evidence of this, a number of surveys are quoted, some of them putting questions to the workers which would cause surprise in other countries. An official inquiry, for instance, found that 72 per cent of people aged between 40 and 49 agreed with the statement: "Work is only natural to man; devotion to work is admirable." But only 54 per cent of those aged from 16 to 24 agreed.

Another survey asked workers to choose which of two European countries while national negotiations may acquire greater authority in Japan.

Consensus decision-making in Japan has something in common with workers' participation in Europe. In most of the countries the balance between confrontation and cooperation is becoming more even.

However, though countries in these days of abundant communications know and understand better the way others do things, they are less likely to imitate what is good than to try to find their own way of achieving the same results. Attitudes and traditions differ so much that uniformity, happily, is not within sight.

* The Development of Industrial Relations Systems: Some Implications of Japanese Experience (OECD, £2.20).

Business Diary: New men in power • Pukka Saab

ing at the top of the Electricity Generating companies space. Yesterday Secretary Tony announced the names of the recruits to the CEEG.

er top civil servants will be joining full-time, while Geoff, chairman of the Electricity Board, takes three years' part-time from tomorrow.

roduction of Jukes is way a Civil Service man. He was nominated new CEEG chairman, island, who has known years and thinks highly bility.

has had a varied career Civil Service and with head of the Atomic Authority. In both he is mainly concerned with c planning.

nd says of Jukes: "He ood capture and well vating for."

nd has also been im by the speed with which sponded to the nomination it sturdily responsible board appointments—ole matter was settled lays.

nd recommended Jukes, old, on May 20. Jukes ter Jukes saw Ben and

on May 20 notified his acceptance of the offer. Geoff Shepherd is well known in the electricity industry and will combine his duties with the Midlands Electricity Board.

With these latest additions to his team, England now apparently feels that he has a strong force for coping with the inevitable crises ahead. Although he still has room for one more appointment no further announcement is expected for some time.

Driving force

Saab, not the most sparkling of British car importers at the moment, has just appointed a new managing director. John Smerdon, 49, takes over a fairly hot seat with the United Kingdom subsidiary after two years as a management consultant, much of it spent advising Saab-Swedia in Sweden.

Before that he was successively director of finance and administration with British Leyland Europe and Western Europe director of British Leyland International.

Smerdon's inheritance is a company that has been gradually losing its market share, down from 0.62 per cent in 1975 to 0.54 per cent last year and 0.45 per cent in the first four months of this.

The problems of Saab in Britain mirror those of Saab as a whole, of trying to sell an aging and—thanks to the strength of the Swedish currency, which a devaluation has done little to alter—increasingly expensive model range to a



Saab's John Smerdon, once loyal ownership that is beginning to find the price a little too much.

Saab has traditionally sold to better-off professional people—doctors, dentists, lawyers and so on—and, once hooked on the car, most have gone on to buy another. But Smerdon points out that this type of person has been badly hit by inflation and the pay policy and is in danger of casting around for something cheaper.

So, while he is anxious to hold on to existing customers, he also talks of trying to reach further up the market.

He hopes to do it by aggressive marketing, which will involve stronger advertising and injecting a greater commitment into the dealer network. He is disturbed that Saab does well in Yorkshire and Scotland and poorly in the affluent South-east

which must be full of potential customers.

Smerdon's long experience of fitting products to different markets gives him a European rather than national perspective in his new job. He recalls that at one point in his career he was involved in launching the Playtex bra in, of all places, France.

Now you might have thought that the last thing French women would have wanted was this efficient and rather unglamorous American product when they had been used to the frilly stuff. But now Playtex is the best-selling bra in France.

Such, he contends, is the power of marketing. It will be interesting to see whether he can be equally successful in selling Saabs to the hard-up British.

Sticky

The sticky question of when a chocolate is not a chocolate will soon be preoccupying Derek Anderson. As newly reelected president of the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, he represents British confectionery makers at a meeting with the EEC counterparts in Copenhagen next month.

The problem, which has been around for a long time, is that additives to some British, Danish and Irish chocolates mean that they do not conform to the food labelling regulations adopted by the other six members. If these have their way such products will not be called "chocolate."

Talks to see if a common formula can be agreed have gone on for several years without a settlement. Anderson, however, believes that spiralling raw materials could add a new factor to next month's debate.

Higher priced cocoa beans are already likely to force up United Kingdom chocolate prices by about 30 per cent this year. The manufacturers, who have seen their sales suffer as a result, argue that the proposed new regulations could price their products out of even the most affluent child's pocket.

Other EEC manufacturers have been similarly affected and Anderson hopes that this might help to turn the tables in the talks about the description of "chocolate."

Instead of the three newcomer countries adopting the chocolate making standards of

the original six, he thinks these might now be prepared to relax the regulations to keep prices down.

Steel clanger

There is some embarrassment in the British Steel Corporation over the medal struck to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the state undertaking and handed to a number of worthies who attended a recent celebratory luncheon.

On one side is a blast furnace and on the other the names of the 14 companies which were originally vested in the corporation arranged in concentric circles. But keener-eyed recipients have spotted a couple of errors—the mis-spelling of one company's name and the omission of another.

The mis-spelling is of Stewarts and Lloyds, which appears as Stewart and Lloyds. The omission is that of the Lancashire Steel Corporation, although Round Oak Steel Works, which was originally among the 14 companies and subsequently returned to the private sector, is listed.

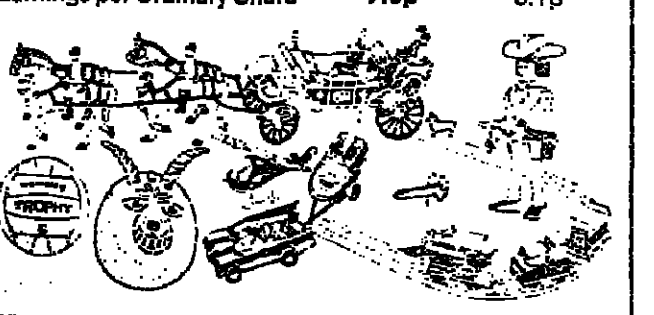
Spink and Son, the medallists who undertook the commission, said they had no comment to make on the omission and the mis-spelling and referred Business Diary to the corporation. At the Grosvenor Place headquarters a spokesman in the BSC press department apologized for not having seen the medal personally. "There are no errors within the BSC," he said.



Salient points from the Statement by Mr. H. J. Isner, Chairman.

- The results of the year can be considered satisfactory.
- The growth of the Company has been brought about by a series of successful additions to established ranges as well as the introduction of new ones.
- Orders received and despatches effected in the first three months of the current year are well in excess of the same period last year and we are confidently looking forward to total sales for 1977 considerably above those for 1976.

Summary of Results	1976	1975
Turnover	£23,840,329	£19,837,313
Group trading profit	£2,401,490	£1,546,253
Earnings per Ordinary Share	7.0p	5.1p



Europa

Italy at the top of the league for strikes

Final figures for 1976 show that less time was lost through strikes in the United Kingdom than in France for the first time since 1968, when France's industrial storms defeated the statisticians.

Italy, though doing slightly better than in 1975, remained easily the most strike-prone of the four main EEC countries; and Germany, in spite of some troubles in the spring, easily the most peaceful.

The explanation of the reversal of the positions of France and Britain is that French unions, like those of Italy,

were struggling against their government's anti-inflation policy, while British workers were on the whole loyally observing the national incomes policy agreed with the TUC. But the reaction has set in.

British craftsmen, in the motor and steel industries and at London airport and elsewhere, have rebelled against reductions in their differentials which resulted from the policy, and in the first quarter of this year strikes caused the loss of two thirds as much working time as in the whole of last year.

France started this year with a relatively peaceful couple of

months, but the widespread stoppages in protest against the government's economic policy on April 23 and an even more general 24-hour strike called on May 24, show that the Frenchmen are as determined as ever to maintain their standard of living. The strike which paralysed Rome on March 24 had in part a similar motive.

Workers in the four countries have all maintained their standards in the three years since the recession began, though in the United Kingdom and Italy particularly at much economic cost; and in the past year there has been a 10 per cent fall in British standards.

The accompanying table of the movement of wage rates, calculated from OECD pay and consumer price indices, shows that the value of wage rate gains from 1974 to 1976, was about one ninth of the actual increases in the United Kingdom, one sixth in Italy, a quarter in France and a third in Germany.

Pay rates are not, of course, a measure of worker purchasing power, which is also affected by such things as overtime and incentive payments and by taxation. In Germany earnings have risen slightly more slowly than rates since the recession began and in Britain considerably more

slowly, though they have gone up relatively more rapidly since last July.

In the table of time lost through strikes, the incidence rates are not comparable with those which in the ordinary course of things will be published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the end of this year since they are based on the total number of employees instead of those in four main industries. Adjustments have had to be made for the fact that France and the United States do not include agricultural employees in their totals.

Eric Wigham

Year	Percentage increases in the Nominal and Real Value of Hourly Wage Rates in Manufacturing				Percentage increases in the Nominal and Real Value of Hourly Wage Rates in Manufacturing			
	France	Germany	Italy	U.K.	France	Germany	Italy	U.K.
1970-75	42	18	14	14	42	18	14	14
1974	13	5	10	17	13	5	10	17
1975	17	10	12	17	17	10	12	17
1976	16	10	12	17	16	10	12	17
1977 Jan	16	10	12	17	16	10	12	17
1977 March	16	10	12	17	16	10	12	17

Year	NUMBER AND INCIDENCE OF WORKING DAYS LOST THROUGH LABOUR DISPUTES				NUMBER AND INCIDENCE OF WORKING DAYS LOST THROUGH LABOUR DISPUTES			
	France	Germany	Italy	U.K.	France	Germany	Italy	U.K.
1974	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000
1975	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000
1976	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000
1977 Jan	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000
1977 March	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	3,377,000	1,051,000	1,051,000	1,051,000

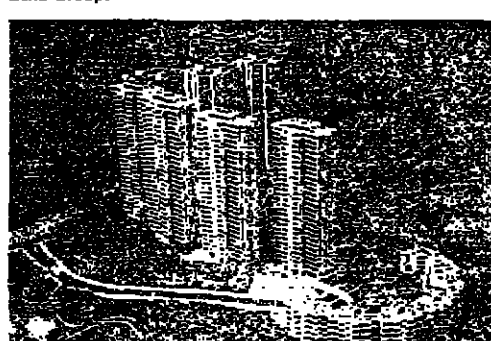
Extracts from the 1976 Statement to Shareholders by Mr D.K. Newbigging, Chairman, The Hongkong Land Company Ltd

Excellent future prospects.

Good Year for the Group

1976 was a good year for Hong Kong, for the commercial sector generally, and for your Group. We have proceeded with our development plans, and the Group's earnings have again increased enabling the recommendation of a record dividend for 1976.

In the past year we have completed several major projects and announced the commencement of others. The Group will thus continue to have a steady flow of new developments coming to fruition which should ensure a continued growth of earnings with excellent future prospects for The Hongkong Land Group.



A model of Phase One of Chi Fu Yuen, the Group's new housing project on Hong Kong Island.

Group Results

The consolidated net profit after taxation for 1976 was \$25,200,000 compared with \$21,700,000 for 1975. Earnings per share rose to 5.25 pence from 4.50 pence for 1975, an increase of 16.5%.

An interim dividend of 1.38 pence per share was paid in November, and a final dividend of 2.75 pence per share is recommended, making a total of 4.13 pence for the year 1976, an increase of 13.8% over 1975.

Commercial Properties

The Group's portfolio of properties in Central District has remained virtually fully let, and Phase One of our Central District Redevelopment Scheme was completed in late 1976 with the completion of the 34-storey Alexandra House, which is now fully let.

Phase Two and Three of the Scheme call for the construction of two 45-storey twin office towers which, with Alexandra House, will form three sides of a 20,000 sq. ft. pedestrian plaza, providing a new focal point for Central District.

Phase Two (Gloucester Tower) will be constructed on the site of Gloucester Building while the Windsor House site as well as that of Lane Crawford House, which has been acquired by Hongkong Land in exchange for Jardine House and 14/16 Pedder Street, will provide the area for the central shopping plaza. Final completion of Gloucester Tower and the plaza is scheduled for early 1980, and will make available a total of some 621,000 sq. ft. of lettable space, an increase of 72% compared with the buildings currently occupying the same site. Our own system of pedestrian foot bridges will, in due course, create a link between our seven major Central District properties.

In September, we purchased the P & O Building in Hong Kong, which added 100,000 sq. ft. of net lettable office accommodation and 4,000 sq. ft. of shopping space to our Central District portfolio.

Work will commence in April 1977 on the construction of a major commercial building of some 800,000 sq. ft. in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Agreement has already been reached with Government for the Inland Revenue Department to lease over 200,000 sq. ft. of the new building. Phase One of which is expected to be completed in late 1978, with final completion by mid 1979.

In Jakarta, Indonesia, a joint venture 15-storey office building, (30% owned), was completed in late 1976.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, work commenced in May, 1976 on a 19-storey office building of some 180,000 sq. ft. (30% owned). This building is expected to be completed by late 1978.

Macquarie House in Sydney, Australia (80% owned), the 20-storey building containing 100,000 sq. ft. of office space, remains fully let.

Residential Properties

The Group's portfolio of prime residential properties principally in the May Road area in Hong Kong's Mid-Levels, has remained fully let. Branksome, the 26-storey luxury apartment building of 84 units was completed in mid 1976, and was immediately fully let. In addition, work will shortly commence on the construction of new twin towers comprising 134 units on the site of Tregunter Mansions. This development is expected to be completed by late 1979.

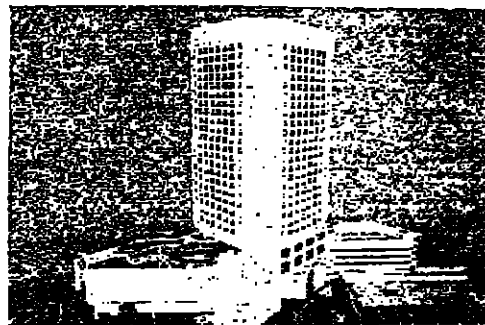
Construction of the joint venture development of a residential scheme of 37 luxury units on a prime site in Stanley by Simla Enterprises Limited (50% owned) started in late 1976 and should be completed by mid 1978.

Property Trading

In September, 1976 we sold four Hong Kong residential developments for a total of \$26.9 million, thus releasing funds for investment in other areas, in particular the Central District.

In September, Government approval was received for the development of Chi Fu Yuen, the Group's \$25 million housing project in Pokfulam on Hong Kong Island. The project - a new township of some 17.5 acres - will provide 2,700,000 sq. ft. of residential accommodation in the form of 4,350 flats for middle income purchasers.

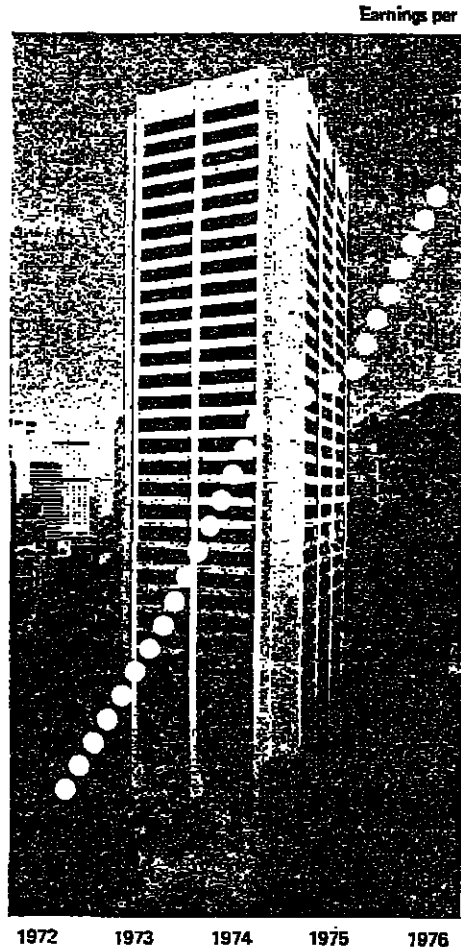
The marketing programme of Chi Fu Yuen was launched in December, and met a response of such proportions that all nine blocks comprising the first phase were immediately subscribed. Construction of the first phase should be completed by mid 1978, and the development is scheduled for completion in stages over the next six to eight years.



The 25-storey, 504 bedroom, Jakarta Mandarin Hotel is expected to open in 1978.

Hotels

The trading income from the Group's Hong Kong hotel interests improved considerably during 1976. The Mandarin, Hong Kong, operated by our subsidiary, City Hotels Ltd, continued to operate at a high rate of occupancy. The Excelsior, Hong Kong (49% owned), is now managed by a subsidiary and is operated in conjunction with the adjacent Hong Kong Convention Centre. The Oriental Hotel, Bangkok (49% owned), had its new River Wing of some 350 rooms completed in 1976. The 504 room Manila Mandarin Hotel (30% owned) was partially opened in September, as scheduled. In Indonesia, the Jakarta Mandarin (40% owned), also 504 rooms, is scheduled to open in late 1978.



Alexandra House, Phase One of the Group's Central District Redevelopment Scheme, now completed, fully let and contributing to earnings.

Maxim's Caterers Limited (21% owned) once again returned a record result based on substantially increased turnover. This is attributable to the growth of business in existing outlets, and to further expansion by the opening of eleven new restaurants and fast food outlets.

Food Distribution

The Group's major food distribution interests, accounting for some 20% of the Group's profit, are maintained through subsidiaries operating within the Dairy Farm Group, which incorporates Fitzpatrick's. During 1976, trading was at a satisfactory level, with a continued growth pattern based on increased turnover and the opening of new retail outlets. A further two shopping centres will open soon, bringing the total number of supermarkets and shopping centres operating in Hong Kong to 22.

Aircraft catering activities have expanded throughout the region, and in Hong Kong the new aircraft catering building has recently been completed at a cost of some \$3.8 million. The main Dairy Lane store in Windsor House will be re-established in Marina House later this year.

Future Prospects

The completion of Alexandra House, Branksome, the Oriental Hotel's new wing and the Manila Mandarin Hotel, together with the acquisition of the P & O Building and an increased investment in the Excelsior Hotel, will ensure growth in future profits. The continuation of this pattern over the next few years should also be assured by the development of the remaining two phases of the Central District Redevelopment Scheme, the new Windsor House in Causeway Bay, the redevelopment of Tregunter Mansions, the Jakarta Mandarin Hotel, and Chi Fu Yuen in Pokfulam.

Looking to 1977, your Directors believe that earnings will show a further improvement, and we look forward with confidence to the future.

	1976	1975
Group profit after tax	25,200,000	21,700,000
Dividends	19,800,000	17,400,000
Shareholders' funds	362,400,000	358,600,000
Earnings per share	5.25p	4.50p
Dividends per share	4.13p	3.63p
Net assets per share	0.75	0.75

Currency conversions from HK\$ made at the following rates: March 1977

D.K. Newbigging Chairman
Hong Kong 30 March 1977

The Hongkong Land Company Ltd
Alexandra House, Hong Kong



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Firm at the lower levels

Growing union opposition to what has hitherto been regarded as a reasonable Phase Three pay settlement brought an early markdown of shares from which they never fully recovered.

The closure of many Continental and United States markets and the approach of the four-day break also proved a disincentive to buyers, but after the relatively light selling had dried up most prices held steady at the lower levels.

Indeed, there was a faint-hearted rally after a fairly early Mr. Vireley's bullish estimate of a £3,000m. trade surplus by 1980, but this quickly petered out and the FT Index, 6.1 off at 2 pm, closed at 447.5, a net loss on the day of 5.3.

Though prices made little headway there was more interest in the gilt-edged market with the progress of the new variable bond and the surprise announcement of a new £800m "instalment" tap commanding a good deal of attention.

The market is looking for full-year profits from Percy Bilton, due today, of around £5.75m. against £5m. The group should have done particularly well on the industrial property side where rents are expected to be up by £500,000. For the current year the rise is put at £1m. Housebuilding remains depressed but is unimportant. The shares were steady at 155p.

Longer dates opened easier and remained in a narrow range around their overnight levels until business was suspended for half an hour to consider the terms of the new issue. Thereafter "mediums" settled three-eighths lower and "longs" up to three-quarters off with a two-way trade developing at the lower level.

Short dates were largely unchanged and then eased on the money market. The variety bond, issued at a nominal £100, met with a fair demand and was offered by the Government Broker at £2 discount and, later, £8.25.

Though firmer by the close the industrial leaders ended in a mixed range. At the extremes of this were Bowater, off 4p

to 188p, and Unilever which managed a rise of 4p to 438p. ICI lost 3p to 351p and Beecham held steady at 482p.

In engineers further delay in the completion of the Sachs deal led to GKN coming on offer and closing 7p lower at 335p. After its accounts Hawker Siddeley lost 4p to 608p. In electricals recent figures left Mair's head 5p down at 185p and, market trend apart, EMI was hampered by talk of scanner competition and closed 4p off at 218p. Relatively firm were Rayrolle Parsons at an unchanged 179p, GEC 186p and Ever Ready 166p, both a couple of pence down.

Among newspaper issues the continued lack of concrete bid developments led to selling of Beaverbrook "A" which lost 3p to 43p. Ahead of figures Reed Group held firm at 212p but profit takers were at work in Thomson Organisation which closed 12p off at 528p.

Two to benefit from comment were Peco "A" which gained a point to 74p and Elswick Hopper at 43p. After the annual meeting Dunlop eased 4p to 104p.

A clutch of results brought some good spots to the textile sector. After a jump in profits Parkland textiles "A" rose 5p to 43p, higher profits and a dividend forecast lifted Reliance Knitwear 2p to 33p while a return to profitability helped Lindsay & Williams to put on 4p to 25p.

In stores profit-taking led to softness in Mothercare which dropped 6p to 266p, but both House of Fraser 3p to 120p and Marks & Spencer 1p to 116p made up some ground.

After last week's strength, which was based largely on dividend possibilities, Associated Dairies succumbed to profit-taking with a hefty loss of 11p to 262p and for the same reason Paterson Zochonis was lowered 5p to 220p.

Following last week's figures Wheatstef held steady at 177p, but Bejam, lowered recently on price war fears, lost another 4p to 102p and now looks "cheap" in the eyes of some.

Against a background of the coming share placing BP were a subdued market ending 2p

lower at 920p, and there similar story at Shell & the same amount to 528p of figures this week Capel were unmoved at 177p.

Interest rate worries proved to weaken issues with Stock Exchange down 6p to 178p, Grelland 4p to 242p, Hasletoe to 190p and Peachey 40p. One going again general trend was Land the which ended a point at 177p.

From 44p when we investors against the February the shares in roads have now weakened. Yet the final dividend figure for the full year ended on April 30 and until September. The on bleak. Pressure from American competitor, is unwelcome and the profits indicated by the fall of 26 pence is to have continued. The dividend dropped from 1.65p and down must round the final. This last time.

Though the banking was generally dull the 5p spots were to be found. Australian security, Her Bank rose 10p to 475p, Commerce Bank 4p to 1ANZ Group 3p to 3 Australia National Bank 263p. Over in insurance & Law came under, giving up 4p to 12 brokers Sedgwick Forb 290p and Willis Faber & 7p to 238p were both in.

In very quiet after trading there was no trend. Though most section: penny or so the leads to their 3.30 pm levels changed, oils improved. Gifts went a shade easier the new "tap" terms. Exports to 1.74m, May £70.4m, £17.50m, be Active stocks yesterday, ing to Exchange Tel were ICI, Bowater, New Beristford, Dunlop new, DfL, Bowater, Shell, B Ind and DfL, GKN, Teacmatic, ICI, EMI, and Dairies and Muir

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div.	Pay	Year
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Emalton (I)	0.81(0.59)	0.45(0.38)	2.66(4.06)	0.89(0.81)	22/7	—(4.4)
Futura (F)	4.13(3.81)	0.17(0.16)	10.71(10.04)	2.45(2.45)	—	2.45(2)
Honmayr (I)	18.89(24.29)	1.20(1.45)	—	1.31(1.31)	13/8	—(6.2)
Kayser Bendor (F)	15.90(14.12)	—	2.5(9.8)	1.74(1.58)	22/7	1.74(1)
Lindsay Wms (F)	2.26(2.03)	0.05(1)	2.2(3)	1.0(NH)	22/7	1.0(NH)
Macanie (F)	19.41(18.6)	0.27(0.29)	2.45(5.2)	1.43(1.27)	29/7	1.36(1)
Parkland (F)	23.9(17.1)	1.12(0.93)	17.39(9.22)	1.52(—)	15/7	2.84(0)
Prentiss Jones (I)	—	—	—	—	30/6	—(7.0)
Rio Algom (I)	—	—	—	—	29/6	—(7.0)
O C Summers (F)	8.66(8.91)	0.22(0.07)	5.8(6.2)	ND(3)	—	ND(3)
Stag Line (I)	—	—	—	3.8(3.5)	—	11.45(1)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News (are shown on a gross basis) to establish gross multiples. * For time months. † Loss £50,000. ‡ Loss 2.5p before tax. Items. \$ Forecast. ** Cents. †† Loss £105,000.

Brixton investment portfolio now £84m

A December 1976 revaluation of Brixton Estate's properties revealed a £4.9m surplus taking the group's investment portfolio to £80.9m. A further £22.9m of properties in course of development held in the group's books at cost bring the value of the portfolio as a whole to £83.8m to support a net asset per share figure of 108p.

That asset backing will be increasingly reflected in the revenue account, according to Mr Michael Verey, in his chairman's statement to the group's 1976 accounts. Mr Verey comments in the improved economic climate for the property industry since the end of 1976 - "interest rates have fallen and there has been an improvement in most lettings markets". He draws shareholders' attention to "the substantial benefits which

we are now receiving from reversions", reversions providing a 22 per cent increase in the group's gross profit last year to just under £2m. Revision of earlier year's accountancy treatment of interest on properties under development increases the revenue charge here to £2.7m partly countered by a £2.2m transfer from reserves leaving net profits of £1.1m. As one of the country's largest industrial property groups, Brixton has been one of the few groups in the sector able to start development work again last year. But, as Mr Verey says, while he does not object to the principle of taking gains arising from the grant of planning consent through the Development Land Tax, the Community Land Act "which provides a bureaucratic method of nationalising land... has little practical relation to the problems of the country".

A Kwik-welcome to MoT

From next January 1 regulations concerning the leading beneficiary of Kwik-Fit (Tyres & I. Holdings). There is no doubt in of Mr Alec Stenson, Writing in the account year to February 28 that share has already upsurge in demand for systems and shock and "this we expect sustained". The retail distribut, tyres, exhausts and parts are now only one of three interests. The are the wholesaling and light industrial e by Dorsman BV; and buton of bottled gas ances by J. C. Baker ions & Gas. Dorsman's sales in two months of this ahead. In April Dorsman the International Auc tion in Amsterdam were better than hope management is confi, this year will be as go As for J. C. Baker for bottled gas and alances rose last year. main advice tersely: many will remain v group as long as it is to be profitable." Last year group profits swept up from £151,358. Tyre an fitting station sales more slowly, by 52 Kwik-Fit has been 1 consolidate after a depot openings but rears have been more. Of the £513,580 p and exhausts made the wholesaling of 2 light industrial £306,137, and to £11,139. The parent's were £101,548.

Rowland allegations are denied in S Africa

The Foreign Affairs Secretary, Mr Brand Fourie, has denied that the South African Government threatened Mr Roland ("Tiny") Rowland over the question of Rhodesian sanctions busting by oil companies. Reuter cables from Johannesburg. The press has quoted Mr Rowland, chairman of Lonrho, as saying in a telephone interview from London that Mr Fourie had told him to stop giving evidence against the oil firms or "we will pull the trigger on you". The threat was made, Mr Rowland said, when the British Foreign Secretary, Dr David

Owen, announced the commissioning of an investigation into allegations of sanctions busting by big oil companies such as BP. Mr Fourie claims to know "nothing about this at all". He says "there is no truth in it whatsoever". Mr Rowland was quoted as saying he understood the South Africans to be saying that they would prosecute subsidiaries of Lonrho in South Africa. These are mainly mining companies. Warrants of arrest were issued in South Africa in 1975 against Mr Rowland, Mr Angus Ogilvy, the husband of Princess Alexandra, and other Lonrho subsidiaries in South Africa, but subsequently withdrawn.

Business appointments

Dunlop Holdings chairman-designate

Mr J. Campbell Fraser, managing director, is to be the next chairman of Dunlop Holdings. He will succeed Sir Keny Geddes, who intends to retire after the annual meeting in 1978. Messrs P. R. Ekberg, J. R. C. Sheldon and G. P. Welsh have joined the board of News International. Mr John R. Willis has gone on to the board of Albright and Wilson, with effect from June 1. He is formerly managing director of their Detergents and Chemicals Group. Mr William Harris has joined the board of Peasey Property. Mr Michael Connor has been elected chairman of the Institute of Credit Management and Lieutenant P. A. E. Dumas has become secretary of the Institute. Sir Robert Norman has become a director of Reckitt & Colman Australia.

Mr Lim Yew Chan has joined the board of Bata Matsang Rubber Plantations. R. Hicks has been made chief executive and director of Hestley Smith (Anglia). Mr Harold H. Eggleston has become managing director of Addressograph-Multigraph. Mr Barry M. Clark is now a director of the Metals Division of M. L. Alkan. Mr R. C. A. Horn has been made managing director of Hill (Gr. Britain). Mr V. L. Stevens, at present senior executive, money and exchange, Midland Bank International Division, has become treasurer (International) as from June 1. Mr J. van den Driest has been made chairman of the board of Royal Adriaan Volker Group. Mr van den Driest succeeds Mr A. de Neel.

Mr C. H. Ellerton Johnston has joined directors of Wade Poi. Mr J. E. Houghton is a director of British structures (Birmingham). Mr M. J. Summerli made sales director Containers. Mr F. G. N. Thom made finance director Mann and Truman B follows the retirement Harrison. Mr P. W. Kinnimo made chairman, Mr Williams managing. Mr C. A. Norman, (Mr D. H. Lee an exor of Kilmomhouth No). Mr Harold Beverley gone on to the Met as works director. Mr M. B. Brooks is tor of Bimet Holdings.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Dunlop faces up to challenge seeking faster growth

Dunlop's sports goods and products manufacturing group, which has a one-for-three share split, gave the shareholders a dividend of 5.3p a share, the group could now grow, Sir Reay Geddes, chairman, told the shareholders, the group has already recorded a growth of 3.3p a share.

For the first three months of the current year, Dunlop's sports goods and products manufacturing group, which has a one-for-three share split, gave the shareholders a dividend of 5.3p a share, the group could now grow, Sir Reay Geddes, chairman, told the shareholders, the group has already recorded a growth of 3.3p a share.

Trading in the first three months of the current year got off to a good start and was generally better than in the corresponding quarter in 1976. But beyond expecting to maintain good progress, he could not go much beyond this at this time in the year.

In the previous year, Dunlop made pre-tax profits of £73.3m on which it paid a 4.35p net dividend. As stated three weeks ago, Treasury consent has been given to increase the dividend to 5.3p a share. Exchange movements still complicate the underlying position, accounting for about a third of the £59m rise last year in net current assets. But the £49m rise in net assets, pushed up by the £10m rise in the value of the group's investments, has been a success.



Sir Reay Geddes.

group was now in strong fettle to take new initiatives. Growth prospects for its present activities were "encouraging". He is to retire from the chairmanship at the end of the 1978 annual meeting. Mr. J. Campbell Fraser, managing director, has been invited to succeed to the chair.

Parkland tops £1.8m and orders still roll

By Tony May

After three years of declining profits, Parkland Textile (Holdings) has bounced back to a record £1.8m before tax for the year to March 4. This compares with £32,000 a year ago and was achieved on turnover up 39 per cent to £23.9m. After a tax charge of £688,000, compared with a credit of £5,000, profits are £1.1m against £38,000.

Shareholders of this Bradford-based worsted, comb, spinner, and manufacturer, are to receive a second interim of 2.49p gross, making a total for the year of 4.37p, against 1.30p. Earnings a share are raised from 0.22p to 1.73p.

The dividend is the maximum permitted but if the tax rate is reduced the group will consider a further increase. The group's shares shot up 5p to 43p on the results to give a yield of 10.1 per cent.

Mr. John Hanson, chairman, says that exports show a jump of 43 per cent, and current production is on target. Order books are satisfactory, and it is proposed to increase the level of expenditure. He says that prospects are good but depend upon a strong home market. This emphasises the importance of the current discussions on the multi-fibre arrangements and Government awareness of the need for continual surveillance of cheap textile and clothing imports.

The group turned a loss of £167,000 into a profit of £674,000 for the half year to September 3. This "substantial improvement" in profits was achieved against a background of uncertainty in the textile industry and the country's economy. Order books were big and Mr. Hanson, the chairman, expected the rest of the year to be successful.

In the event, the second half brought in a huge profit of £1.1m. This is more than the group has achieved in a full year previously, and compared with £199,000 a year earlier.

At the group's subsidiary, Smith Baines, a loss of £30,000 has been turned into a pre-tax profit of £355,000 for the year to March 4. Turnover of this dyer, re-comber, and spinner of white and coloured worsted yarns for weaving and knitting rose from £3.5m to £5.5m.

& Euro bid 24p for New Bridge

to unravel the web of company shareholdings, Mr. Tony Buckley, Walker period as an adviser have begun to emerge. A European 4p a share bid for New Bridge Holdings, NB direct 29.5 per cent of the company, has been acquired in November, 1976, under a recommended accept-

holds a further 8.3 of NB which, in turn, is 15 per cent of L & E, having been acquired in March, 1977, holds 28 per cent of Irish Holdings, once Buckley's orbit. Half of the offer have been acquired by NB's financial Guinness Mahon.

ANNUITY TRUST 2p a share from investment in securities is being acquired with Take Over, and compares of 1p from College.

ERS (HOLDINGS) over stationary at £8.7m loss for 1976 of £233,000.

Briefly

against profit of £71,000 after all charges, including tax relief of £108,000 (charge of £44,000). Loss a share 5.9p compared with earnings of 6.7p. No dividend against 3p net.

HIGHGATE HOLDING SOLD Bayliss has sold 75 per cent stake in Highgate Optical & Industrial to Convent Beheer, wholly owned Netherlands holding company of Bayliss. Highgate remains quoted in London.

HAYS WHARF-UNITANK Proprietors of Hays Wharf has sold its 50 per cent stake in Tees Storage to Unitank Storage for some £2.2m, cash. Tees operates in bulk storage of chemicals and oil products. Additionally, company's loan of £175,000 to Tees has been repaid.

MID SOUTHERN WATER Underwriting completed for offer by 100 of £5m Mid Southern Water 3 per cent redeemable preference, 1982. Brokers are Seymour Pierce.

WOLVERHAMPTON DIE Chairman of Wolverhampton Die Casting Group tells shareholders that formal offer by Mitchell

Somers will contain recommendations to accept offers, besides forecast of profit for year to June 30.

METRO DEVELOPMENTS New subsidiary registered, Wembley Sportsmaster, to develop and extend range of sports goods. Substantial interest in group, its main distributor in France, has been acquired to help sales there.

LARD COMPENSATION Chairman of Lard Group told annual meeting that compensation proceeds will be reinvested in industrial assets, including further development of existing group.

CROSSWALL REINSURANCE Hogg Robinson Group, insurance brokers, Lloyd's underwriters but shipping, forwarding and travel agents, has formed Crosswall Reinsurance. It will offer specialist reinsurance service world-wide.

FAIRDALE TEXTILES Turnover for year to Jan. 29 down from £5m to £4.7m, but pre-tax profits up from £335,000 to £408,000. Total gross dividend raised from 1.45p to 1.6p.

KAISER ALUMINUM New York-Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical expects 1977 second-quarter net profits to be over \$1.53 per share, up from \$1.54 a year ago. This equals a record \$1.53 in the second quarter of 1974.—Reuter.

Lead Industries Group

Metals, titanium pigments, paints, ceramic supplies and other chemicals in the UK and Europe, Australasia, South Africa, India and Canada.



Salient figures from the accounts (for each ordinary share of 50p)

	1975	1976
Group net assets	175.43p	205.84p
Earnings after tax	17.74p	25.43p
Net dividend	5.09p	5.59p
Capital expenditure including associates	29.55p	32.48p

facts from the annual statement to shareholders by the chairman, Ian Butler.

Operations and financial results

comparison with 1975, the trends varied between the countries; higher profits were achieved, largely from ceramic supplies, some of the operations and from a recovery at the diecasting unit. Exports from UK subsidiaries increased from £24.6m to £24.6m.

the associated companies Tioxide operated at much profitable levels than in 1975, although the second 1976 was reduced by the initial operating cost of the new Spanish plant into production. The other subsidiaries, particularly those in Australasia, and better profits than in 1975.

summary of the Group profit before tax is set out

	1975	1976
trading profit excluding		
of profits of associates	£9.6m	£11.7m
	£5.3m	£10.6m
interest payable by LIG and	£14.9m	£22.3m
and subsidiaries	£1.5m	£1.8m
before tax	£13.7m	£20.5m
profit after tax and minority		
interest was:	£6.5m	£9.3m

working capital requirements have inevitably increased, with the higher prices of raw materials, but the short term borrowing remains well within the available. It is important to maintain and improve facilities and during the year capital expenditure of £1 million was incurred, the majority of this being in the UK.

group and its employees During 1976 we suffered the loss of Mr. Stanley Davies, chairman, who died suddenly in October, and Mr. David a managing director, who died in August. We have

lost two close friends and extend our sympathy to their widows and their families.

In November, your board appointed me as chairman and I am grateful for the strong support and help that has been given by all the management in the changes brought about by these unexpected deaths.

It is difficult to find new words to express appreciation of the contribution that is made by all those who work in the Group. Many have suffered a fall in their living standards and in the differentials for skills and responsibilities, but have continued to work hard in spite of the fact that pay was restricted by the code, by higher taxation on promotion, and by increases in the cost of living. To all those I wish to convey thanks, not only of the directors, but also, I feel sure, of the shareholders, the customers and the suppliers all of whom, with these employees, have some dependence on the continued success of the Group.

We believe that operating a system of decentralised management allows better communication between all employees with, at the same time, the subsidiary companies having direct links with directors on the main board. As the management is made up of individuals, almost all of whom have progressed up through these companies, no standard approach to employee involvement is appropriate, but it is recognised by all that people want to know more today about their company's progress, its problems and its future. In LIG, as in many other companies, the executive directors are appointed because of their particular knowledge and experience of LIG operations. Adoption of the system advocated by the Bullock majority report would mean that the body responsible for the direction of your Group would no longer have within it the current spread of specialist experience. Such a system would in due course similarly affect all the underlying companies, and would significantly reduce the promotion incentives of many managers.

1977 Although some areas in which the Group is involved have not had a particularly buoyant first quarter, there has been some overall increase in the UK and in many of the overseas operations, and orders continue at an encouraging level.

Issue of shares to Imetal

Extraordinary General Meeting of the company held in May it was agreed to issue to Imetal 4,801,223 new shares at a price of 180p per share. Imetal has said that it has no intention of increasing its holding of the 25% reached by this issue.

proceeds of £8.64m are being held in foreign currency outside the UK to consolidate and develop overseas

markets and activities. LIG expects to continue its high level of investment in the UK and the issue will help in financing this by freeing resources which might otherwise be required for overseas investment.

As an integral part of the issue it is intended to pay a net ordinary dividend for 1977 of 7.37p.

DUNLOP

An international company at work



Extracts from the Chairman, Sir Reay Geddes' speech at the 78th Annual General Meeting of the Company in London on Monday May 30th.

THE accounts before you report on the third successive year in which there was a rise in the Company's profits. In a period which was unhelpful for business, the results demonstrate the Company's underlying strength and the benefits of its product and geographical diversity.

We can now seek faster growth. This is reflected in our capital spending plans for the three years to end-1979. Even allowing for increased costs, they represent a significant increase. Just over a third of the total — some £84 million — will be spent in the United Kingdom for modernisation and expansion.

An International Company at Work

This capital expenditure programme represents a change of gear. But the emphasis will still be firmly placed on selective expansion.

The main criterion will continue to be profitability. But the term has wider implications. We, with our partners Pirelli, manufacture in 29 countries — in 30 when the new tennis ball factory in the Philippines comes into production — and we market our products in some 150 territories round the world.

However, the European Economic Community remains both the head and heart of our operations. And despite the many problems of recent years, there are opportunities for profitable growth. It would be prudent to recognise that growth in the mature economies of the E.E.C. may well be slower than in many overseas countries in the next few years. Fortunately, we are now in a strong position to take new initiatives.

In addition to expansion of our operations in the U.S.A., Malaysia and Nigeria, many developing countries are at the stage where the growth of road transport, electrification and communication networks will be rapid. Dunlop experience of tropical agriculture has led us into development work in the treatment of agricultural effluent. We are diversifying our North American activities with a new factory to make irrigation hose, in which we can justifiably claim to be world leaders, while our factories in the U.K. are being expanded to enable us to meet the growing demand elsewhere in the world.

Our knowledge of the water business and the need for irrigation has led us to establish a new division — Dunlop Irrigation Services. This is not just concerned with products but will provide consultancy services and management of large-scale irrigation projects primarily in the Third World. The division has obtained its first contract for a feasibility study in Egypt. In fact, the Middle East is an area of considerable interest and a number of studies are under way for turnkey projects for tyres and consumer products.

The achievement of independence by many developing countries brought with it a surge of nationalism. This was often reflected in rejection of an open international system for the movement of goods, capital and "know-how". In the late 1960's and early 1970's, multinational companies were often portrayed as obstructing the aspirations of developing countries. But now they are learning that exclusive nationalism and government finance are not the only solutions.



Angus Irrigation, a division of Angus Fine Aggregates Limited, has won the Queen's Award to Industry for Export Achievement.

DUNLOP HOLDINGS LIMITED

It is not without significance that there are now some 150 bilateral agreements for the protection of foreign investment signed by developing countries.

Just as the political environment is changing, so are the trading environments. As a result of inflationary pressures, there are government-imposed price controls in virtually every country where we operate, with the exception of Germany and the U.S.A. Many economists would argue that these price controls cannot, for long, achieve their primary purpose in restraining wage demands. Moreover, they bear most heavily on the large and visible firm; and there appears to be a danger that they will become semi-permanent features of the industrial environment.

In this situation, to achieve and maintain adequate profit margins means ever greater emphasis on cost saving and productivity. But response to competitive change and new investment suffer; so therefore does growth and the creation of new jobs. And that involves people.

Participation

Dunlop now employs 102,000 people, of whom 54,000 work outside the United Kingdom. Our expansion overseas has been achieved by harnessing the vitality, imagination and skills of many nationalities and races. In building the business, they have participated in it in the most practical and meaningful way possible. But the word "participation" has taken on a highly political meaning.

There is no need to rehearse again the false and misleading comparisons with German experience which took place in a very different environment. Yet some people looked to the Bullock Enquiry to indicate a new way forward in industrial relations. We do not believe the report provided it. On the contrary, by concentrating on worker directors, it became fascinated by the tip of the iceberg; and so failed to relate properly to the nine-tenths beneath.

Even the trade unions are divided. The sceptical responses from all levels within Dunlop have made it clear that they are not interested in Board membership if it conflicts with their trade union's traditional role.

The need to induce a greater sense of understanding, responsibility and competitiveness remains. If that can be achieved by a greater degree of participation, we should be prepared to put it to the test.

The Way Ahead

The performance of the last three years, the skills, and the international strength and vitality of the Company augur well for the future. So the Board felt the time appropriate to ask shareholders for additional funds in the form of the rights issue.

Although our borrowing facilities were adequate for the foreseeable future, we decided that it was desirable to lower the proportion of borrowings to total funds employed and to be in a position to put more permanent capital into our subsidiaries. At the same time, we announced that unless there were any unforeseen circumstances, the dividend for 1977 on the increased capital would be increased to 5.3p per share net.

The Board

One of the resolutions before the meeting is to elect Mr. J. R. Scott as a Director of Dunlop Holdings Ltd. Mr. Scott, who joined the Board of Dunlop Ltd. in 1975, has been with the Company for some 20 years in a number of senior posts at home and overseas, and is presently responsible for the Overseas Group. His election would strengthen the executive element of the Board.

It may be of interest to shareholders to know that the average age of the executive directors of the Company will then be 51, and of the Board as a whole 56. As the improving results have shown, the management team at headquarters and in the field is strong.

On a more personal note, the business will be nearly 90 years old next year. I have served it for about half that time. I feel, therefore, that it would now be appropriate for me to tell you that it is my intention to retire from the Chairmanship at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in 1978. The Board proposes to invite Mr. Campbell Fraser, the Managing Director, to assume the Chairmanship of the Board on my retirement.

Copies of the speech, the Annual Report and Accounts, and "Report to U.K. Employees 1976" can be obtained from the Secretary, Dunlop Holdings Limited, 25 Ryder Street, London SW1Y 6PX.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Australia more buoyant for Homfray than home sector

By Desmond Quigley

Despite the trying conditions in the carpet industry, Homfray managed a pre-tax profit of £1.2m in the six months to April 2. This compares with a profit of £1.45m for the nine months to April 3 last year.

However, on a pro-rata comparison this year's figures show an underlying improvement of some 24 per cent, mainly as a result of a useful turnaround to profits by the UK textile business and increased margins and profits in Australia. Pro-rata the company made £968,666 in the same six months last year.

Total turnover was £18.9m against £24.3m for the nine months last year, or £16.2m pro-rata. While the UK carpet side was by far the biggest contri-

butor in terms of turnover—£13.6m against £17.7m for the nine months—its profits were only £545,000 against £730,000 on a nine-month basis. This compares with the Australian carpet group which made £638,000 this year on sales of £3.9m against £760,000 on turnover of £5.08m for the nine months.

Pre-tax profit margins in the UK carpet business in the first six months this year were a mere 4 per cent compared with the 16 per cent made by the Australian side. On pro-rata figures, the UK margins actually fell marginally compared with last year, while the Australian margins increased a full six points.

The disparity is partly due to the fact that in the UK Hom-

fray sells to the high volume low-to-middle end of the market while in Australia it sells at the top end of the range. In Australia, the up market area has not been so affected as the cheaper end by heavy domestic over-capacity and highly competitive imports.

An unchanged interim dividend of 2.02p gross is declared and the market is expecting the full 10 per cent increase to be applied to the final to make a total gross distribution of 10.58p to give a prospective yield of 18 per cent at 58p. With expected pre-tax profits of £2.3m for the full year the 7.8p earnings per share would not leave the potential net dividend well covered, but the market is looking for a strong performance in 1978.

But he said that when the tax credit due to domestic shareholders, included in the reform, was taken into account the net payout was bound to rise—Reuter.

Hitachi progress

Hitachi Kasei-Harima Heavy Industries Co. of Japan, and Hitachi Shipbuilding and Engineering report higher net profits in the year ended March 31. Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding, the fourth largest shipbuilder in Japan, showed a 35.8 per cent decline in net profit. Hitachi Kasei, a net profit rose 23.5 per cent to 11,700 yen (about £34m) from 9,400 yen. Sales rose 11.4 per cent to 696,100 yen from 624.9m yen in the previous year.

Allied Ldn Props

Allied London Properties is beginning to feel the benefit of last year's £7.1m sale of its Founston Centre. Interest cost elimination clearly outweighs revenue from the scheme and although its half-year profits to end December, 1976, take in only three months of the post-sale period, pre-tax profits are up by 15 per cent to £449,000. Half-year dividends have been increased to 1.38p a share gross.

Cowie-Colmore

Strongly placed though it is to win Colmore Investments with its 30 per cent stake, Sunderland-based T. Cowie, the Ford and Chrysler dealer and Red Dragon credit concern, is sweetening its 22p a share offer for Colmore. Cowie is now throwing in its interim dividend for this year. This interim is 0.66p net or 1p gross a share. Cowie has a good record—in three years pre-tax profits have gone from £372,000 to £932,000 and in the six months to March 31 they jumped 57 per cent to £510,000. By contrast, Col-

BMW sees slow-down in growth

Munich, May 30.—Bayerische Motorenwerke expects a 4 to 5 per cent rise in car production and unit sales this year. This is compared with 24 and 22 per cent increases in 1976, according to the chairman, Herr Eberhard von Kuenheim.

Production in the first four months this year rose 9 per cent over the same period to 102,000 units. Parent company turnover was up 20 per cent to DM1,700m (about £404.7m) with order in hand now at a record level.

BMW will probably be unable to maintain its proposed 1976 cash dividend of DM10 this year because of the extra tax burden imposed by Germany's corporation tax reform, Herr von Kuenheim said.

But he said that when the tax credit due to domestic shareholders, included in the reform, was taken into account the net payout was bound to rise—Reuter.

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Commodities

COPPER. The price of copper fell 2.75p to £27.50 for cash and 2.75p to £27.50 for three months. The price of silver fell 1.00p to £15.00 for cash and 1.00p to £15.00 for three months. The price of gold fell 1.00p to £15.00 for cash and 1.00p to £15.00 for three months.

SILVER. The price of silver fell 1.00p to £15.00 for cash and 1.00p to £15.00 for three months. The price of gold fell 1.00p to £15.00 for cash and 1.00p to £15.00 for three months. The price of platinum fell 1.00p to £15.00 for cash and 1.00p to £15.00 for three months.

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Foreign Exchange

With New York and other major centres closed, activity was very limited on foreign exchange yesterday. Nevertheless sterling was able to close with a small gain at 1.7174 compared with 1.7170 at Friday's close. The effective exchange rate was unchanged at 61.5 after briefly easing to 61.5 at the noon calculation.

Some selling during the early Gold Standard session was attributed to a commercial trading sub-portfolio, but dealers said in subsequent trading sterling held relatively steady.

The dollar meanwhile, spent an uneventful session losing a little ground to the Deutschmark at 2.3545 (2.3575), Swiss franc 2.5350 (2.5355), and Dutch guilder 2.4592 (2.4597).

Italy was one of the few countries with centres open and the lira was able to harden in dollar terms to 885.80.

The pound in London at \$144.125 an ounce, down 50.50 on Friday's close. This is slightly better than the low \$143.575 to which the price fell last Thursday.

Other currencies were also trading in a quiet mood. The Canadian dollar was at 72.50, the Australian dollar at 1.48, and the New Zealand dollar at 1.48.

The price of gold in London was at \$340.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of silver was at \$16.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of platinum was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of palladium was at \$500.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of rhodium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of iridium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of ruthenium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of osmium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of selenium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of tellurium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of arsenic was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of antimony was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of bismuth was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of lead was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of tin was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of copper was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of zinc was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of nickel was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of cobalt was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of manganese was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of iron was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of steel was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of aluminium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of magnesium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of titanium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of vanadium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of niobium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of molybdenum was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

The price of hafnium was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close. The price of tantalum was at \$1,000.00 an ounce, down 0.50 on Friday's close.

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Spot Position of Sterling

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